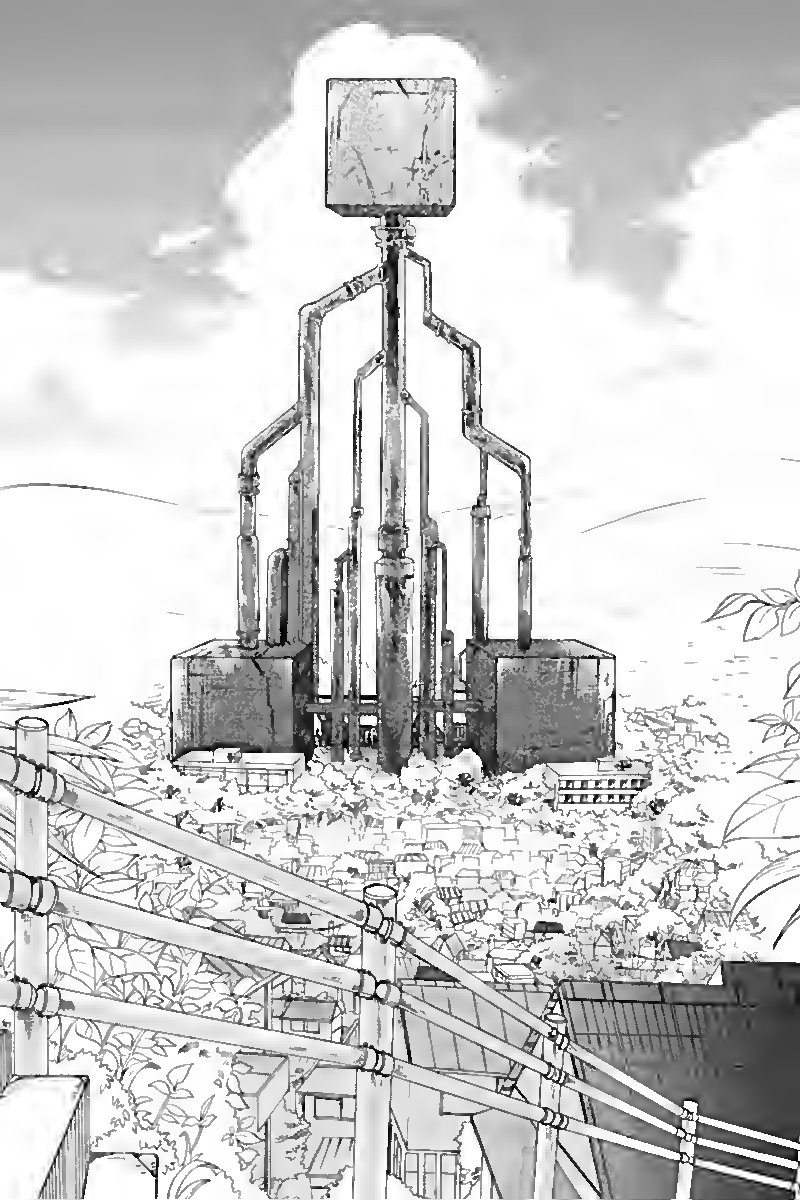
2222 AD
THERE ARE NO FLYING CARS
AND NO TIME MACHINES EITHER
THE CITY WE LIVE IN IS TOTALLY ORDINARY
TOTALLY NORMAL
IT'S A NORMAL SUMMER VACATION
WITH NORMAL SCENERY



WHY...
IT LOOKS HUGE AS ALWAYS
DO I ALWAYS THINK THAT? I SEE IT EVERY DAY
THE "SOUL FOUNDRY..."

HE S WEARING OUR HIGH SCHOOL S SUMMER JERSEY
HE S IN THE SOCCER CLUB
THERE S THAT BOY WITH THE MESSY SUNFLOWER HAIR
I VE BEEN SEEING HIM EVERY DAY SINCE SUMMER VACATION STARTED
SO WHY
DOES MY HEART SKIP A BEAT
EVERY TIME I SEE HIM?

OH!
THE SAGE FLOWERS[注1]
HUH!?
バシャレン
MI
MANAMI!
MANAMI!

KATSURA-SENSEI!
THE SAGE FLOWERS ARE DOING JUST FINE
BUT WHAT ARE YOU DOING SPACING OUT LIKE THAT AGAIN!?
MANAMI YOU REALIZE THIS IS YOUR FIRST HIGH SCHOOL SUMMER VACATION? THESE ARE YOUR GOLDEN YEARS!
THERE'S NOT MUCH TIME LEFT AND YOU'RE WASTING IT ON FLOWERS!
OH, COME ON I LOVE OUR FLOWERS
SO ARE YOU TAKING CARE OF THEM BY YOURSELF TODAY?
YOU'RE THE GARDENING CLUB'S ADVISOR, HOW CAN YOU SAY THAT!?
UM, WELL. MISUZU-CHAN IS SUPPOSED TO BE COMING
SHE'S LATE!
IDIOT!
SHE PROBABLY SPENT ALL NIGHT UP PLAYING VIDEO GAMES AND OVERSLEPT!
OH NO! SORRY!
DON'T SAY THAT!
HA HA HA!
SUWA!!
TSUWA

ARE YOU TWO OK!?
IDIOT! YOU SHOULD BE MORE WORRIED ABOUT MANAMI!
C MON SHE COULD HAVE DODGED IT
THE FLOWERS CAN T
KAZUSA!
YOW!
SUWA
SENSEI, ARE THE FLOWERS OK?

PEOPLE WILL REMEMBER IF YOU HURT THEM, YOU KNOW
UH STILL
GOOD TAKE KAZUSA TO THE NURSE S OFFICE AND GET THAT SCRAPE DISINFECTED
SHUT UP KAZUSA. MANAMI ARE YOU HURT?
OK!
I I M OK.
YOU RE BOTH FIRST YEAR STUDENTS SO BE NICE TO EACH OTHER!
WHAT A PAIN
KAZUSA. KUN
SO WE RE IN THE SAME YEAR.
A SUNFLOWER I DIDN T NOTICE
GROWING NEXT TO ME
NURSE'S OFFICE

ARE YOU GOING FOR A FULL-BODY DISINFECTION HERE?
OH!
S-S-SORRY!
OH NO!
SUW
...

GRR...
SUWA
HUH!?
?
?
?
MAN, YOU'RE SLOW

WH WHA..?
YOU COULD HAVE JUST CAUGHT THE BALL
YOU RE USELESS!
THANKS TO YOU I HAD THE TEACHER YELL AT ME AND I GOT INJURED!
!?
GET OUT OF THE WAY WHEN SOMETHING S COMING AT YOU! YOU RE SO SLOW!
LATER!
WHAT A KLUTZ.
HMPH

UGH, IT S SO HOT!
DOESN T THE SOUL FOUNDRY LOOK KIND OF WARPED?
THAT S JUST THE HEAT.
HM, MAYBE IT S LIKE A GHOST OR SOMETHING
AFTER ALL THEY DEAL WITH SOULS THERE RIGHT?
YEAH, NO KIDDING IT S CALLED THE SOUL FOUNDRY FOR A REASON
YOU JERK!!!

BUT STILL, ISN'T THAT WHERE THEY REFINE SOULS THAT HAVE LEFT THE BODY AND TRANSPLANT THEM INTO PEOPLE?
A TOWER RISING OVER A DENSE FOREST...
A GIANT ANCIENT HOSPITAL COVERED OVER WITH IVY
WHERE THEY TRANSPLANT SOULS DAY IN, DAY OUT.
WHAT IF A SOUL ESCAPED FROM THE BUILDING... AND STARTED WANDERING AROUND THERE!?
YEAH, RIGHT. YOU'VE BEEN PLAYING TOO MANY HORROR GAMES!
WOW. YOU'VE GOT NO IMAGINATION.
NO WONDER YOU CAN'T GET A BOYFRIEND, MANAMI.
YOU DON'T HAVE ONE EITHER, MISUZU-CHAN!
OH YEAH, WEREN'T YOU WITH SOMEONE TODAY? KAZUSA-KUN, WAS IT?

SOUNDS ABOUT RIGHT TO ME
MISUZU-CHAN!
"MAN YOU'RE SLOW"
EVEN THOUGH HE PROTECTED YOUR SUNFLOWERS?
NO WAY!!
YEAH BUT HE'S AWFUL!
I TOOK CARE OF HIM AND HE DIDN'T SAY THANKS! HE EVEN CALLED ME A KLUTZ!
"LIKE A SUNFLOWER."
WHAT A MISTAKE THAT WAS
HOW STUPID
AND TO THINK THAT MY HEART SKIPPED A BEAT EVERY MORNING
HEY MANAMI!
HEY, THINK WE'LL CATCH THE MIDDAY TRAIN?
SAKURA

DID YOU CHANGE THE CHANNEL?
HEY!
THIS IS THE 189TH SOUL TRANSPLANT THIS YEAR.
HM
THE SOUL TRANSPLANT TOOK PLACE AT THE SOUL FOUNDRY
...
ニュースWeek
16才
15才
THIS TRANSPLANT TOOK PLACE BETWEEN A 15-YEAR OLD BOY WHOSE SOUL HAD LEFT HIS BODY IN AN ACCIDENT
AND A 16-YEAR OLD GIRL WHO HAD BEEN CONFIRMED TO BE COMPLETELY DEAD
WASN'T TOO LONG AGO THAT EVEN ORGAN TRANSPLANTS WERE BIG NEWS
I GUESS SOUL TRANSPLANTS HAVE COME TO BE A COMMON OCCURRENCE NOW
OH, NOW YOU'RE INTERESTED?
THAT GIRL SHE WAS THE SAME AGE AS ME

NOW WE LIVE IN AN AGE WHERE WE CAN TRANSPLANT SOULS.
THE SOUL FOUNDRY DOES TRANSPLANTS EVERY DAY, I THINK.
UNDER THE RIGHT CONDITIONS, THEY CAN BRING A SOUL BACK TO ITS ORIGINAL BODY, OR TRANSPLANT IT TO ANOTHER BODY.
WHOO
SO AS A RESIDENT OF THIS CITY MAYBE YOU SHOULD TAKE A LITTLE MORE. HUH?
BUT IT'S NOT 100% GUARANTEED TO WORK. THERE'S STILL ALL KINDS OF THINGS THEY NEED TO TEST
AND THIS CITY'S THE ONLY PLACE THEY'RE TESTING IT IN JAPAN
SORRY DAD. WAY OVER MY HEAD
HA HA HA
あはは

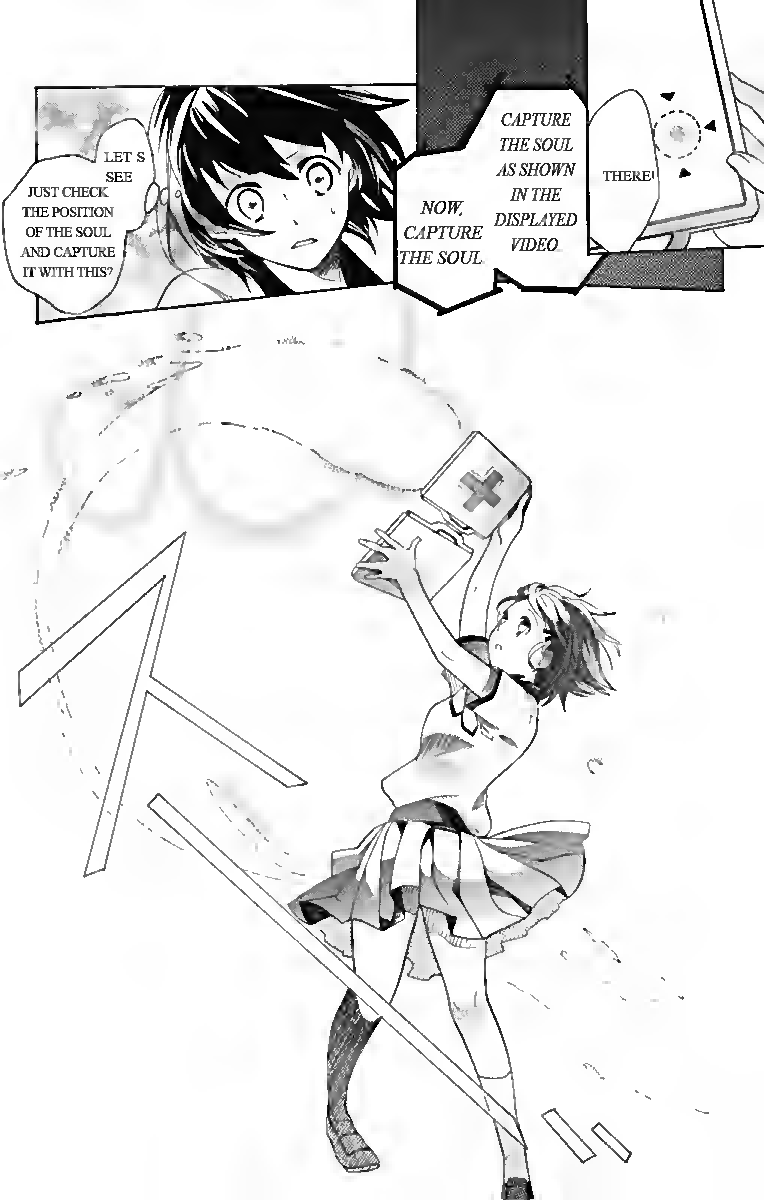
I DON T GET ALL THAT STUFF ABOUT TAKING PEOPLE S SOULS AND PUTTING THEM INTO OTHER PEOPLE
THEY VE BEEN DOING SOUL TRANSPLANTS SINCE BEFORE DAD WAS BORN
AND I M THE SAME IT S ALWAYS JUST BEEN NORMAL IT DOESN T MEAN MUCH TO ME
WH TEVE GOES ON AT THE SOUL FOUNDRY EVERY DAY...
THAT S SOMEONE ELSE S BUSINESS, NOT MINE
THAT S JUST NORMAL FOR ME
LIKE NOW IS NORMAL
LIKE TODAY IS NORM-

…
ちくちくちくちくちくちくちくちく
OW!
OWWWW!
OH NO!
I'LL GET BLOOD ON THE FELT!
TOMORROW WILL BE...
NORMAL.
HEY!
WHOO!
わ〜!
PASS ME THE BALL!
IT WENT THAT WAY!

YOU SHOW KAZUSA KUN!
COME ON OTHER TEAM!
HOW CAN THEY RUN AROUND LIKE THAT IN THIS HEAT?

MORNING! HOW ARE THE FLOW–
HUH ?
SENSEI!
QUICKLY COME TO THE PITCH! IT S KAZUSA KUN!
SOMEBODY, HELP!!
SENSEI!
!!
SOMEONE GET THE Q A E.D !

SENSEI, THE Q.A.E.D.!
I DIDN'T TOUCH HIM. HE JUST SUDDENLY COLLAPSED.
THERE'S NO INJURY, IS THERE!?
WHAT!?
Q.A.E.D., ACTIVATE!
I'LL CHECK HIS READINGS! MANAMI, CAPTURE HIS SOUL!
DON'T WORRY! IT'S GOT A VOICE GUIDE!
BEGIN SOUL SCAN!
NO SOUL RESPONSE FROM BODY
CARDIAC ARREST
WH WH WHAT SHOULD I DO..?
MANAMI, GET KAZUSA'S SOUL!
SOUL CAPTURE.
USE THIS TABLET TO VIEW THE AREA. THE GLOWING AREA INDICATES THE SOUL


LET S SEE
JUST CHECK THE POSITION OF THE SOUL AND CAPTURE IT WITH THIS?
NOW, CAPTURE THE SOUL.
CAPTURE THE SOUL AS SHOWN IN THE DISPLAYED VIDEO
THERE!

I'VE GOT IT!
KAZUSA KUN'S SOUL...
パニ
GREAT! WE MIGHT BE ABLE TO BRING IT BACK!
WHEW
HUH?
WHAT?
バタン!
IN THE AMBULANCE TOO?
S SENSEI, WHY ARE WE
OH, NOW YOU NOTICE?
TO THE SOUL FOUNDRY!
HURRY!
HERE S THE COACH!

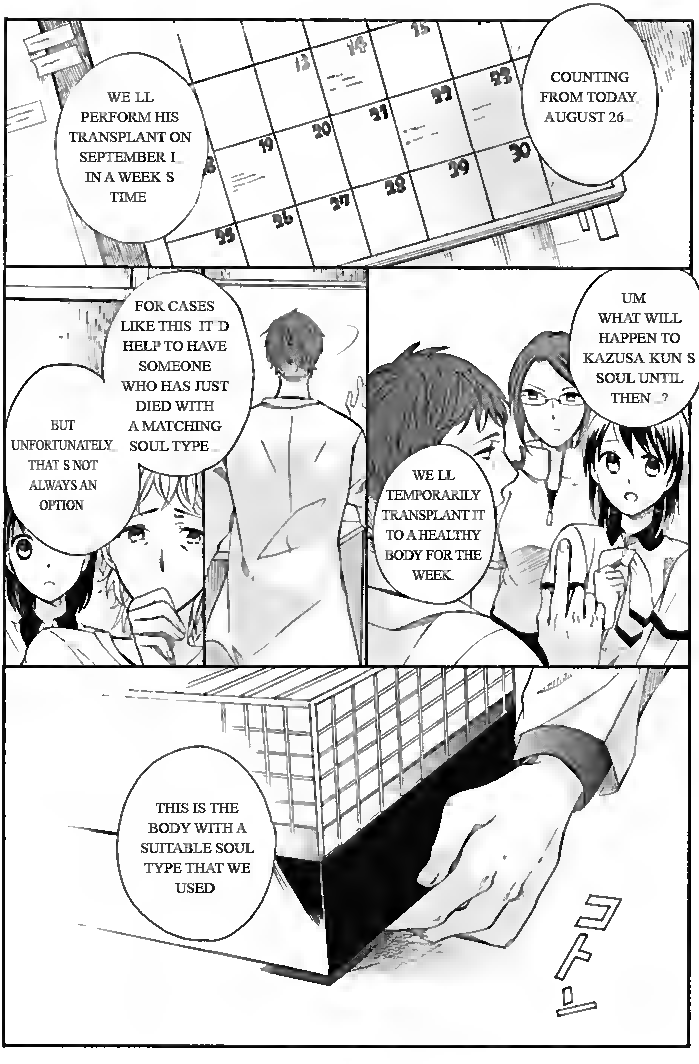
YOU WOULDN T EVEN GIVE IT TO THE AMBULANCE CREW
YOU'VE BEEN CLINGING ON TO KAZUSA'S SOUL
EVER SINCE YOU CAPTURED IT
WE HAD TO TAKE YOU TO THE SOUL FOUNDRY HOSPITAL WITH US
S-SENSEI I WAS JUST SHOCKED
I KNOW I KNOW JUST STAY CALM
KAZUSA S RIGHT THERE, YOU KNOW?
WE RE NEARLY THERE!

MY NORMAL LIFE...
HAS JUST...
STARTED TO FALL APART
WE'RE AT THE SOUL FOUNDRY!

ICU
YOU SHOW KAZUSA KUN!"
I NEVER SHOULD HAVE
THOUGHT THAT

KAZUSA!
IS KAZUSA STILL ALIVE?
CAN YOU DO ANYTHING?
PLEASE, STAY CALM AND LET ME EXPLAIN
THE SHORT STORY IS THAT WE CAN SAVE KAZUSA KUN
REALLY!?
YES LET ME JUST EXPLAIN
KAZUSA-KUN WENT INTO CARDIAC ARREST WHILE PLAYING SOCCER.

HIS SOUL LEFT HIS BODY AS A RESULT OF THIS
HOWEVER, HIS SOUL WAS IMMEDIATELY CAPTURED WITH A Q.A.E.D
AS SUCH
WE CAN SIMPLY RETURN THE CAPTURED SOUL TO HIS BODY USING THE SOUL FOUNDRY
THERE S JUST ONE PROBLEM
KAZUSA KUN S BODY HAS SUFFERED THE DAMAGE OF CARDIAC ARREST
A SOUL TRANSPLANT WILL BE MORE THAN IT CAN TAKE SO
IT WILL TAKE A WEEK
WE NEED TIME TO GET HIM BACK TO A FIT CONDITION


WE LL PERFORM HIS TRANSPLANT ON SEPTEMBER 1 IN A WEEK S TIME
COUNTING FROM TODAY AUGUST 26
FOR CASES LIKE THIS IT D HELP TO HAVE SOMEONE WHO HAS JUST DIED WITH A MATCHING SOUL TYPE
BUT UNFORTUNATELY THAT S NOT ALWAYS AN OPTION
UM WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO KAZUSA KUN S SOUL UNTIL THEN ..?
WE LL TEMPORARILY TRANSPLANT IT TO A HEALTHY BODY FOR THE WEEK.
THIS IS THE BODY WITH A SUITABLE SOUL TYPE THAT WE USED
コトン

FROM HUMAN TO SOMETHING OTHER THAN HUMAN...
A STORY OF SOULS BEGINS

#2
I WAS HUMAN
人間でした
原作／百雷　漫画／きこのみ
STORY: HYAKURAI　ART: KIKONOMI

ミーンミンミン
UMM
HEY
YOU'RE NOT HOT ARE YOU? ARE YOU THIRSTY?
NOT REALLY
AS OF TODAY
I STARTED LIVING WITH THE HAMSTER
DO YOU WANT ANY MORE PAPER?
STILL INSIDE THAT HAMSTER IS THE SUNFLOWER BOY KAZUSA KUN
YOU WANT YOUR BED TO BE NICE AND COZY

BESIDES MANAMI S ON SUMMER VACATION SO SHE S GOT THE TIME
THAT S ALRIGHT WE SHOULD ALWAYS HELP EACH OTHER WHEN IN NEED
IT S JUST THE TWO OF US SO I HAVE TO GO OUT AND WORK
I DON T KNOW HOW TO THANK YOU FOR LDOKING AFTER HIM ALL DAY
HOW DID THIS HAPPEN?
I M SO SO SORRY
THANK YOU SO MUCH
WE LL TAKE GOOD CARE OF HIM
UNTIL HIS NEXT OPERATION!
YOU VE GOT NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT!

IF IT WERE A SUNFLOWER,
OR A SAGE FLOWER, I D KNOW WHAT TO DO
HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO LOOK AFTER HIM?
STUPID MOM.
HE S GOTTEN SO SMALL
THE SUNFLOWER BOY
I DON T KNOW HOW TO THANK YOU
I M SO SO SORRY
NOT REALLY
I VE GOT TO LOOK AFTER HIM!
THIS IS NO TIME FOR SECOND THOUGHTS
GRRRR
GRRRR
HEY UM ARE YOU BORED? WANT TO WAFCH TV?

ME ?
I WANT SHIITAKE CURRY
I WAS SO BUSY WITH EVERYTHING THIS MORNING THAT I TOTALLY FORGOT!
?
ACK!
OH RIGHT! BREAKFAST!
OK SO KAZUSA-KUN, WHAT DO YOU WANT?
SHIITAKE CURRY ?
COME ON YOU CAN T HAVE CURRY!
YOU NEED TO EAT LIKE A HAMSTER, OR YOU LL GET SICK
NOT EVEN A LITTLE?
NO!
YOU RE SUPPOSED TO EAT THESE SPECIAL PELLETS
SOME VEGETABLES
ハムスターの
18
TAKING CARE OF YOUR HAMSTER
AND OCCASIONALLY SUNFLOWER SEEDS
THAT S IT

WELL HOW ABOUT JUST BEING PATIENT FOR THE NEXT 6 DAYS?
COME ON NOW S NOT THE TIME TO ACT LIKE A SPOILED BRAT
MAN THAT SUCKS!
THINGS ARE BAD ENOUGH ALREADY
OK HERE S YOUR BREAKFAST AND SOME WATER
NOW I CAN T EVEN EAT THE THINGS I LIKE
もぐ もぐ もぐ もぐ もぐ
コリ コリ コリ コリ コリ
SOME CURRY SURE WOULD BE NICE THOUGH
HM THE SHELLS ARE KIND OF HARD BUT THE INSIDES ARE OK THEY RE NOT BAD
HOW ARE YOUR SUNFLOWER SEEDS? TASTY? ARE THEY OK?
NO!

IS THAT A CABBAGE?
THIS ROOM S FULL OF LEAFY PLANTS
OF COURSE NOT! IT S A NAGASAKI CRABAPPLE! IT S TOTALLY DIFFERENT!
HUH
I DON T KNOW MUCH ABOUT PLANTS BESIDES TULIPS AND CHERRY BLOSSOMS
WELL I DON T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT SOCCER PLAYERS AT ALL
STILL THAT S A LITTLE DIFFERENT

UGH
I M STILL
NOT USED
TO THIS
BODY
I STILL SEE
THINGS LIKE
NORMAL
THOUGH
ARE
YOU
OK?
OH
PLEASE
BE
CAREFUL!
WELL
NEVER
MIND
WHOA!
カラ
ン
コロ
ン
SIGH

I D BE PRACTICING WITH THE OTHERS RIGHT ABOUT NOW
I M WASTING MY TIME LIKE THIS
I M NEVER GOING TO BE PICKED FOR THE NATIONAL TOURNAMENT
NOT LIKE THIS...
I WOULD HAVE BEEN IN THE STARTING 11
SORRY, PLANT I'M GOING TO PICK YOU...
?
OH!
THAT S RIGHT!
HE MIGHT BE A LITTLE ANNOYING
BUT I GUESS... I FEEL A LITTLE SORRY FOR HIM.

HERE
IT'S A HIRAMI LEMON. HAVE YOU EVER HAD IT IN JUICE BEFORE?
I THINK SO
WHAT'S THIS?
I THOUGHT IT MIGHT BE JUST ABOUT THE RIGHT SIZE TO USE AS A SOCCER BALL
HUH!
HOW IS IT?
WHAT!? PRACTICE ALREADY?
YOU COULD AT LEAST SAY "THANK YOU!"
ALRIGHT TIME FOR PRACTICE!

JUST RUNNING AROUND...
HE'S NO DIFFERENT AS A HAMSTER FROM WHEN HE WAS HUMAN.
HE'S TOTALLY LOST IN HIS OWN LITTLE WORLD.
HEY, DON'T GO RUNNING THROUGH THERE!

WHAT?
じ
ばっ
I-I'AM WEARING LEGGINGS BUT
スパッツはいてるけども。
I WASN'T LOOKING I'M NOT EVEN INTERESTED
YOU WERE TOTALLY LOOKING
ごごご
真

HE S JUST FULL OF ENERGY
ヘディング!
デデデ
I THOUGHT HE D BE MORE UPSET ABOUT THIS
SUWA
EVEN DURING THE SUMMER VACATION HE WAS ALWAYS RUNNING AROUND
BUT IT LOOKS LIKE HE GOT USED TO IT
IS IT REALLY SO EASY?
TO MANAMI
I LL TAKE CARE OF THE PLANTS FOR NOW! YOU BE NICE TO YOUR SUNFLOWER BOY, OK? <3
FROM MISUZU
...!?
OH, A TEXT FROM MISUZU CHAN!

M MISUZU CHAN! WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT!?
IT S TOTALLY NOT LIKE THAT!
ALL HE CARES ABOUT IS SOCCER
ゴゴ
I KINDA CLIMBED UP HERE SOMEHOW
WHAAA!?
TH THIS IS BAD
WHAT ARE YOU DOING UP THERE!?
IT'S LIKE BEING UP THE TOKYO SKYTREE.
AH—
OH NO! WHAT SHOULD I DO?
JUST WAIT A SECO—

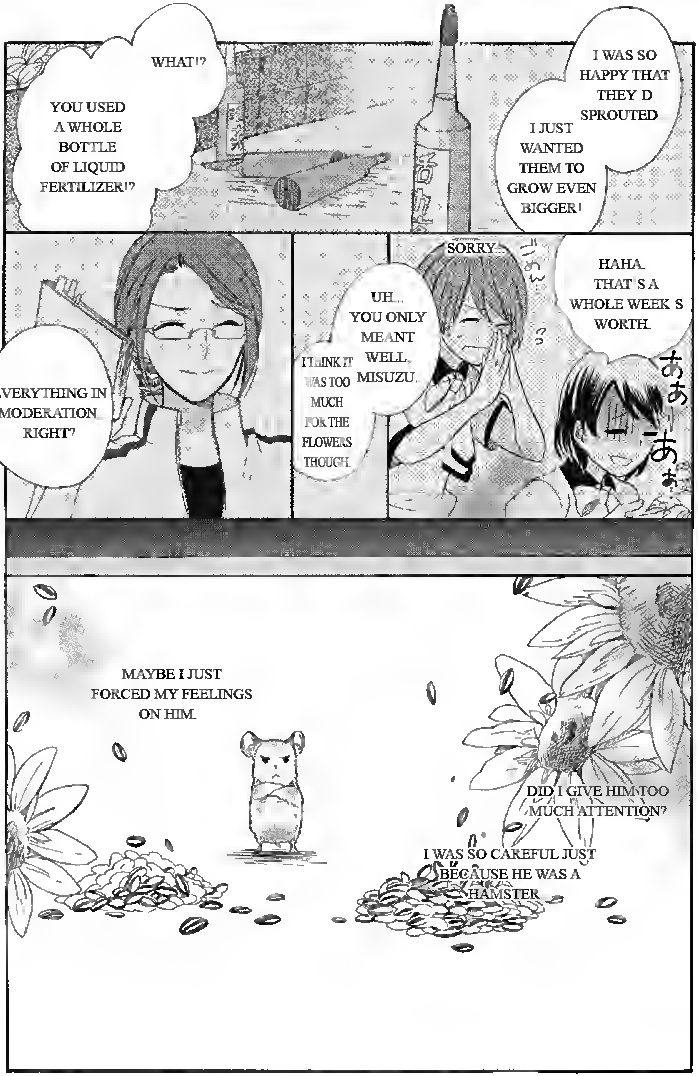
ビタッ
AAARGH! THAT HURT!
ARE YOU OK!?
...YOU
...ARE
ARE...

YOU CAN T GO CLIMBING UP THERE!
DON'T YOU UNDERSTAND!?
YOU SHOULDN T HAVE DONE THAT!
THAT WOULD HAVE BEEN A REALLY BAD DROP IF I WERE A HUMAN
DOF
え
DON T START NAGGING ME
WHY DIDN T YOU JUST CATCH ME, ANYWAY?
YOU RE SO SLOW
プイッ
SHUT UP
IDIOT!
IT WAS YOUR FAULT FOR GOING UP THERE
!!

WHAT!?
I'VE NEVER LOOKED AFTER A HAMSTER BEFORE! I WAS DOING EVERYTHING I COULD FOR YOU!
YOU'RE ALWAYS COMPLAINING! JUST MIND YOUR OWN BUSINESS!
I'M NOT A HAMSTER!
I DON'T NEED YOU FUSSING OVER ME!
FINE!

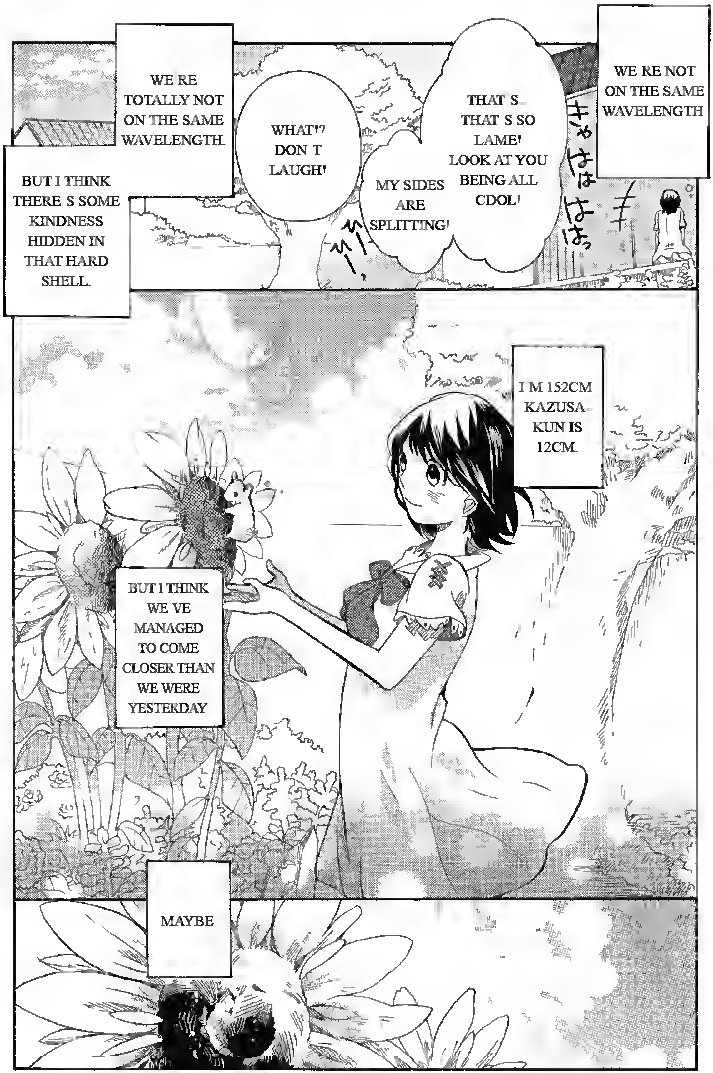
I FEEL SORRY FOR KAZUSA-KUN'S MOM...
I CAN'T TAKE IT ANYMORE
I'LL GIVE HIM BACK TONIGHT, I SWEAR.
BUT I'LL JUST SAY I CAN'T LOOK AFTER HIM
I THOUGHT I WAS DOING EVERYTHING I COULD
BUT WE JUST WEREN'T ON THE SAME WAVELENGTH NOTHING WORKED
HE'S JUST LIKE A SEED THAT'LL NEVER BLOSSOM INTO A FLOWER.

MIND YOUR OWN BUSINESS."
MAYBE HE WAS RIGHT
OH
THIS REMINDS ME OF THAT TIME AT THE GARDENING CLUB.
AAACK!
I'M SORRY MANAMI! I'M SO SORRY!
THE MORNING GLORIES! THEY'D ONLY JUST SPROUTED!
MISUZU, DID YOU KNOW ABOUT THIS?


WHAT!?
YOU USED A WHOLE BOTTLE OF LIQUID FERTILIZER!?
I WAS SO HAPPY THAT THEY D SPROUTED
I JUST WANTED THEM TO GROW EVEN BIGGER!
SORRY...
HAHA. THAT S A WHOLE WEEK S WORTH.
あぁ
ーあぁ
UH... YOU ONLY MEANT WELL, MISUZU.
I THINK IT WAS TOO MUCH FOR THE FLOWERS THOUGH.
EVERYTHING IN MODERATION RIGHT?
MAYBE I JUST FORCED MY FEELINGS ON HIM.
DID I GIVE HIM TOO MUCH ATTENTION?
I WAS SO CAREFUL JUST BECAUSE HE WAS A HAMSTER

HUH?
DID I FALL ASLEEP?
THIS PAPER
WAS IT KAZUSA KUN?

SO I PUT SOME PAPER ON YOU
YOU WERE SLEEPING OUT IN THE OPEN
YOU SHOULDN T SLEEP WITHOUT A BLANKET EVEN IN SUMMER
I M SORRY
THANK YOU
KAZUSA KUN
HE LOOKED AFTER ME EVEN THOUGH HE S SCARED OF BEING A HAMSTER
JUST THAT IT S MY FAULT SO
UH NO THAT S
WHAT ARE YOU APOLOGIZING FOR?
I SHOULD BE THE ONE TO APOLOGIZE FIRST


WE RE NOT ON THE SAME WAVELENGTH
WE RE TOTALLY NOT ON THE SAME WAVELENGTH
BUT I THINK THERE S SOME KINDNESS HIDDEN IN THAT HARD SHELL
WHAT!? DON T LAUGH!
MY SIDES ARE SPLITTING!
THAT S THAT S SO LAME! LOOK AT YOU BEING ALL CDOL!
I M 152CM KAZUSA KUN IS 12CM
BUT I THINK WE VE MANAGED TO COME CLOSER THAN WE WERE YESTERDAY
MAYBE

I Was Human

STORY / HYAKURAI ART / KIKONOMI
TRANSLATION BY RICHIKO AOBA
ERIKO TAKEI
ADAPTATION BY JESSI NUSS (JVTA)
SKY JAPAN, INC.

CLICKETY CLACK
CLICKETY CLACK
WHOA!
BUMPY RIDE, ISN'T IT?
YOU... OKAY?
Y-
YEAH.
MY MOM PLEADED WITH ME TO RUN SOME ERRANDS.
I COULDN'T LEAVE KAZUSA-KUN ALONE, SO HE'S WITH ME.
THIS IS MY FIRST TIME GOING OUT WITH A BOY.
WITH A BOY...

THAT MEANS... IS THIS A DATE?
BLUSH
...NO, NO WAY.
HE'S A BOY, BUT...
HE'S A HAMSTER NOW!
GLANCE
GLANCE
WHAT'S WRONG? WE'LL GET OFF AT THE NEXT STOP.
AH WOW, THE SCENERY LOOKS SO DIFFERENT TODAY.
HIS BODY IS A HAMSTER'S, SO NO NEED TO BE SELF-CONSCIOUS.
UH OH!
CLICKETY CLACK
OOPS!
X CITY X CITY IS NEXT.
HUH?
YOU SAID WE'D GET OFF NEXT.
HEY!

STEP
THE BUS WILL STOP AT THE NEXT STOP.
DING DONG
WHOOOOA!
WE...
WE'RE GETTING OFF!
OH YEAH!
IT'S A HAMSTER!
HEY!
YOU SCARED ME
EVERYONE WAS LOOKING AT US!
STARE
...WHAT?

GASP
THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEANT... BUT...
IS IT BAD IF... WE'RE SEEN TOGETHER?
THE DOCTOR TOLD ME THERE'RE PLENTY OF PEOPLE LIKE ME...
REALLY?!
PITTER PATTER
PITTER PATTER
HE MIGHT FALL
THERE ARE ABOUT 50 CASES A YEAR WHERE A HUMAN SOUL IS TEMPORARILY TRANSPLANTED INTO AN ANIMAL BODY
APPARENTLY, A SOUL TRANSPLANT INTO A PLANT OR A MACHINE IS ALSO TECHNICALLY FEASIBLE
INTO A PLANT?!
YUP.
HOP
WELL, EVEN SO, MY CASE IS STILL UNUSUAL, I GUESS.

ACTUALLY,
LIVING AS A "HUMAN,"
LIVING AN ORDINARY HUMAN LIFE WITHOUT ACCIDENTS OR ILLNESS MAY BE AN EXTRAORDINARY THING
THANK YOU HAVE A NICE DAY
I'M DONE HERE!
WHIRRRR
SEE?
AH!
OH!
LOOK! THEY ARE SELLING CHOCOLATE COSMOSES. FALL IS AROUND THE CORNER.
So?
Yeah?
OOPS.
I'M BABBLING ABOUT FLOWERS, AND HE DOESN'T CARE.
Whatever.

WHAT?
NOTHING
LET'S GO TO THE NEXT STORE!!
I'M SO HAPPY TO SEE HIM RESPONDING POSITIVELY
FLOWERS HAVE SO MANY COLORS
THOSE?
WOW, THEY'RE REALLY CHOCOLATE-COLORED
THIS MAY BE MY FIRST TIME REALLY SEEING A SOCCER JERSEY.
WOW...
WOW, THIS STORE HAS NEW JERSEYS, TOO.
HE'S SO COOL!!
OH, MESSI!!

THAT'S TRUE...
BUT IT DOESN'T FIT THIS BODY!
THAT STINKS!!
HAHAHA
NICE COLORS.
RUB RUB
ISN'T IT COOL?
!
WHERE DID IT COME FROM?
RUSTLE
RUSTLE
.....
MAYBE THIS..
I MADE THIS FELT BALL LAST NIGHT.
I THOUGHT THE FRUIT I GAVE YOU YESTERDAY WAS TOO HARD AND BIG FOR YOU.
WILL HELP BRING DOWN YOUR STRESS?

WOW, THIS IS GREAT.
SERIOUSLY?
YEAH!
HIS EYES ARE SPARKLING.
YOU REALLY LOVE PLAYING SOCCER, HUH.
HONESTLY, I REALLY WANT TO BE ON TEAM JAPAN.
I WANNA PLAY AGAINST NON-JAPANESE PLAYERS AROUND THE WORLD.
RIGHT, THE OLYMPICS OR WORLD CUP.
YOU MEAN FOR THE OLYMPICS?
TEAM JAPAN?!

WHOA!
AWESOME!
INCREDIBLE!
YOU CAN GO OVERSEAS AFTER GRADUATION!
YEAH, I DON'T KNOW SOCCER WELL, BUT STILL I GET SO EXCITED.
TH-THINK SO?
UH, NOT SURE I CAN, BUT .
WELL, HEY,
WHAT'S YOUR DREAM?
GOT ONE?
LET ME SEE...
HOP
WE MAY RUN INTO EACH OTHER SOMEWHERE THEN.
I'M NOT SURE YET... BUT SOMETHING RELATED TO PLANTS.
I WANT TO GO AROUND THE WORLD AND SEE NEW TREES AND FLOWERS THAT I DON'T KNOW.
スゴイ
Neat!
YEAH! THAT COULD HAPPEN.
IF I MAKE IT OVERSEAS...
I'M SURE YOU WILL!

ME VS. KAZU-SA-KUN
PLANTS AND SOC-CER
WE'RE SO DIFF-ERENT
I HOPE I CAN.
YEAH.
BUT OUR PATHS MIGHT CROSS IF WE EACH REALIZE OUR OWN DREAM
HOW NICE... TO BE YOUNG AND HAVE A DREAM.

LOOK
LOOK
...?
IT'S ME. RIGHT HERE
DID...
A DOG TALKED!
...YOU JUST TALK?!

SORRY IF I SCARED YOU. DON'T WORRY, I'M YOUR FRIEND.
MY FRIEND?
SO, JUST LIKE ME...
YOUR SOUL IS..
SCARY
WHISPER
WHISPER
YES.
WHY DON'T WE SIT ON THE GRASS OVER THERE?
MY WIFE SHOPS FOR HOURS. I'D TURN INTO A FOSSIL WAITING FOR HER.
WILL YOU KEEP ME COMPANY?
I'M HUMAN.
AH...
SURE

WHEN DID YOU TRANSPLANT YOUR SOUL INTO A DOG?
UM
WELL...
ABOUT TEN YEARS AGO
WHY ARE YOU STILL A DOG?
WHY HAVEN'T YOU TURNED BACK INTO A HUMAN?
HEY
THAT'S RUDE.
IT'S OKAY.
MY HUMAN BODY WAS BADLY WOUNDED.
IN AN ACCIDENT.

EH...?
IT COULDN'T BE RECOVERED BEFORE TRANSPLANTING MY SOUL BACK.
I HAD NO CHOICE BUT TO LIVE AS A DOG.
THAT'S SAD...
YOU COULDN'T RETURN TO YOUR BODY.
I...
I THOUGHT I'D RETURN TO MY BODY FOR SURE
THAT'S SCARY.
IF I DON'T, I CAN NEVER PLAY SOCCER AGAIN
MY DREAM...
WILL VANISH.
WHAT AM I GONNA DO?

IF I CAN'T BE A HUMAN AGAIN...
HEY...
SLUMP
OH, THE DAMAGE TO MY BODY WAS TOO SERIOUS. NORMALLY YOU CAN RETURN.
SORRY I MADE YOU ANXIOUS.
ALL I WANTED TO SAY IS...
BY LIVING AS A DOG?
NOD
..THERE ARE SOME THINGS YOU CAN SEE ONLY BY LIVING IN THIS BODY.
EVERYTHING I SEE HAS CHANGED.
WHEN I BECAME A DOG,
SOME PEOPLE APPROACHED ME WITH A "I-KNOW-HOW-IT-IS" LOOK.
SOME JUST STARED AT ME FROM A DISTANCE.

SOME DESERTED ME IN NO TIME.
THAT'S HORRIBLE. WHO WOULD DO THAT?
SURE, YOU LOOK TOTALLY DIFFERENT, BUT IT DOESN'T CHANGE WHO YOU ARE!
RIGHT. IT'S JUST THE SKIN AROUND MY SOUL THAT HAS CHANGED
INSIDE, I'M STILL THE SAME PERSON
BUT..
I'M NOT THAT DIFFERENT FROM THEM
I FINALLY SAW WHAT'S IMPORTANT AFTER TURNING INTO THIS BODY.

THANKS FOR WAITING.
HONEY!
AH, MY WIFE'S BACK
SOME PEOPLE LEFT ME,
BUT I ALSO FOUND ONE THING THAT NEVER CHANGES
EVEN IF I TURN INTO A FOSSIL,
SHE'LL STAY WITH ME.
GOOD-BYE.
TAKE GOOD CARE OF YOUR GIRLFRIEND.
I...

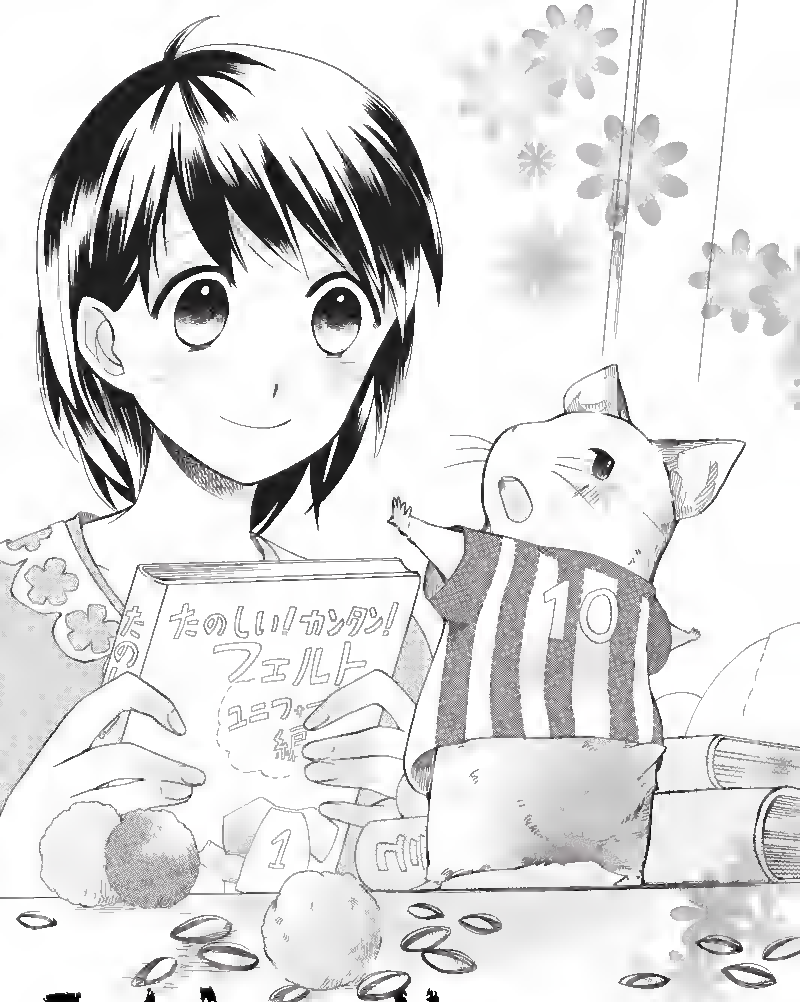
I'M NOT HIS GIRLFRIEND!
HONESTLY!
WHAT A MISUNDERSTAND-ING!
BUT I KIND OF UNDERSTOOD WHAT HE SAID.
WHEN I THOUGHT I'D NEVER BE A HUMAN AGAIN,
THAT THERE SOME THINGS YOU CAN ONLY SEE LIVING IN THAT BODY?
I FOUND OUT JUST HOW MUCH I REALLY WANTED TO PLAY SOCCER.
YEAH.

I WANNA PLAY SOCCER!
NOW I JUST WANT TO RETURN TO MY BODY AND PRACTICE
I THOUGHT OF QUITTING THE TEAM, BECAUSE THE PRACTICE WAS TOO HARD
RIGHT NOW!
HEE-HEE
YOU COULD'VE LEFT ME, BECAUSE WHAT HAPPENED TO ME IS CREEPY
LIKE THAT GUY SAID,
WELL...
WHAT?
AND YOU KNOW, YOU'RE WEIRD

NOT AT ALL!
I, TOO...
COULD SEE NEW THINGS LIKE THAT SOCCER JERSEY...
I NOW KNOW THE CHOCOLATE FLOWER TOO.
"CHOCOLATE COSMOS"!
...JUST A LITTLE BIT.
YEAH...
THANKS TO THIS SITUATION...
I KNOW KAZUSA-KUN ISN'T JUST A MEAN BOY...
WE COULD LEARN THINGS WE DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT EACH OTHER...

WHERE IS IT?
HUH?
YOUR FAVORITE CURRY RESTAURANT.
OH, IT'S ON THAT STREET THERE...
ALL RIGHT!
LET'S GO HAVE MUSHROOM CURRY AFTER YOU RETURN TO YOUR BODY.
HOW'S THAT?
I'LL TREAT YOU TO A LARGE SERVING
OKAY?
...
...I GUESS THAT'S ALL RIGHT.
HERE.

IT'S A PROMISE.
THE TINIEST LITTLE FINGER
IT BARELY TOUCHED MY HAND.
SO WHY DOES IT FEEL...
SO WARM?



I Was Human

STORY / HYAKURAI ART / KIKONOMI

TRANSLATION BY RICHIKO AOBA
ERIKO TAKEI
ADAPTATION BY JESSI NUSS (JVTA)
SKY JAPAN, INC.

TAP
TAP
99
97
98
TAP
DAY 4 AS A HAMSTER
I'M KIND OF GETTING USED TO THIS.
KAZUSA-KUN, LUNCH'S READY!
A HUNDRED!
GREAT!
POING
YOU HAVE FOOD ON YOUR WHISKER
OH...
DON'T MOVE...
KAZUSA-KUN TOO, I GUESS ...

IT'S OFF.
Y-
YOUR FACE IS
TOO CLOSE TO MINE!
PINK
SORRY..
HUH?
OH!
CHEW
CHEW
CHEW

I DON'T UNDERSTAND BOYS WELL, BUT...
HE'S A LITTLE HAMSTER, BUT THE TRUTH IS .. HE'S A BOY.
CAN I STOP BY THE FLORIST'S AFTER SCHOOL?
YEAH.
EVERYTHING FEELS SO REFRESHINGLY NEW TO ME
BUYING SOMETHING?
SERIOUSLY? IT'S STILL SO HOT!
WELL I WANNA SEE IF THEY HAVE FALL FLOWERS
MY TIME WITH HIM IS ILLUMINATING
TALKING ABOUT SOCCER, SCHOOL AND TV SHOWS AS WELL AS EATING TOGETHER ..
ALL OF THOSE DAILY ROUTINES NOW SEEM DIFFERENT

HEY!
HOW HAVE YOU BEEN, SUNFLOWERS AND PETUNIAS?
HI EVERYONE, LONG TIME NO SEE!
DON'T YOU WANNA SAY HI TO ME?
WHOA!
POING
ARE WE THERE?
WHISPER
SO, HOW CLOSE ARE YOU TWO NOW?
WHAT?!
NICE TO MEET YOU!
SAME HERE
THIS IS MISUZU-CHAN, A GARDENING CLUB MEMBER
INCREDIBLE! JUST LIKE IN A GAME!
IT'S REALLY TALKING!
?
!?
SO THIS IS A RESULT OF SOUL TRANSPLANT. AWESOME!

NO, WE'RE NOT!
BUT YOU ARE.
MISUZU-CHAN, NO WAY! THAT'S A TOTAL MISUNDERSTANDING!
DON'T PLAY DUMB. YOU'RE LIVING TOGETHER NOW!
?
HEE HEE
KAZUSA-KUN?!
THUMP

I'M NOT...
IT'S BEEN AGES! WHY ARE YOU HIDING?
WHAT A PRETTY GIRL!
IS SHE... THE MANAGER OF THE CLUB?
WOW, SUCH A CUTE LITTLE BODY! GLAD YOU'RE DOING WELL!
H-HEY!
EXCUSE ME, BUT WHO ARE YOU?
THANKS FOR TAKING CARE OF OUR KAZUSA-KUN.
SHE SAID "OUR"...
COME BACK TO THE PITCH NOW!.
OH, SORRY.
I'M MOMOSE, MANAGER OF THE SOCCER CLUB
I SAW A HAMSTER,
SO I THOUGHT IT MIGHT BE KAZUSA-KUN AFTER THE SOUL TRANSPLANT.
HEY!
EVERYONE! KAZUSA-KUN'S HERE!
"KAZ-USA-KUN"..

EXCUSE ME LET ME BORROW KAZUSA-KUN
S-SURE...
SORRY
WHOA SERIOUSLY? A MONSTER?
BUZZ
ワイ
BE GENTLE ALRIGHT?
DUDE, DON'T HIDE.
KAZUSA'S HERE?
THUD
ズギ
I WANNA POP INTO THE SOCCER CLUB.
I'LL BE BACK IN A SEC.
...YEAH.

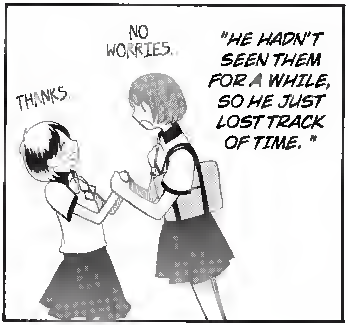
!?
I'M NOT SO...
CAN YOU ACCEPT THAT, MANAMI?
DON'T YOU THINK SHE AND KAZUSA LOOK CLOSE?
YEAH, SHE IS
PRETTY, ISN'T SHE?
?
??
WRONG RESPONSE!
I'M TALKING TO YOU, MANAMI!
...MANAMI!
WHAT'RE YOU TALKING ABOUT, MISUZU-CHAN?
ABSOLUTELY NOT!
REALLY? WHEN YOU SAW KAZUSA-KUN KIDDING AROUND WITH HIS TEAMMATES
YOU LOOKED HURT.
KLINK
!!
ARE THE THOUGHTS OF SUNFLOWER HEAD
WOBBLE
ON YOUR MIND...?

"I FEEL KINDA LONELY."
YOU HAVE A SADDER FACE THAN WHEN YOUR MORNING GLORY DIED.
AREN'T YOU THINKING LIKE THIS?
WHA...
YOU FEEL LONELY WITHOUT HIM
AND WANT HIM TO BE WITH YOU.
THAT MEANS... YOU'RE IN LOVE.

.....
I DUNNO...
SUMI
FASTER!
SHUDD'AP!
FREET!
KAZUSA-KUN'S HAVING SO MUCH FUN
HAS HE EVER LOOKED THAT HAPPY WHEN HE'S WITH ME?
I WONDER

KAZUSA-KUN'S LATE.
YEAH.
WANNA CRASH THEIR PRACTICE?
HELLO...!
AH, NO...
EXCUSE ME...!
!
OH, IT'S YOU. WHERE'S KAZUSA-KUN?
HE'S SO EXCITED TO SEE EVERYONE AFTER SO LONG.

HE WANTS YOU TO GO ON HOME WITHOUT HIM.
BUT SOMEONE HAS TO TAKE HIM HOME AT NIGHT.
I ALWAYS DO THAT...
OH, YOU DON'T NEED TO.
I'LL TAKE HIM HOME.
DON'T WORRY.
WHO DOES SHE THINK SHE IS?
CALM DOWN
A STRANGE FEELING...
MY HEART ACHES...



BUT MY HEART STILL ACHES.

KAZ-USA-KUN...
WHAT IS HE DOING NOW?
I THOUGHT WE'D COME BACK THE SAME WAY TOGETHER AFTER SCHOOL.
BUT I'M WALK-ING ALONE NOW.
THIS MORN-ING, WE WALKED DOWN THIS STREET TOGE-THER.

I KEEP THINKING ABOUT HIM. DOES THIS MEAN...
WILL HE HAVE DINNER TONIGHT?
DID HE GET HOME SAFELY?
"I'M IN LOVE..?"
I'M SO STUPID
WE ENJOYED EATING TOGETHER
HE TOLD ME ABOUT HIS DREAM
HE WAS NICE TO ME.
DID I THINK I WAS SPECIAL TO HIM BECAUSE OF THESE LITTLE THINGS?

A WARPED MIND GROWS LIKE A WEED AND IT'S ALMOST CHOKING ME
HE DOESN'T NEED ME
I DON'T MEAN ANYTHING TO HIM.
OH NO...
IT'S LIKE WEEDS ARE GROWING INSIDE ME
WHAT'LL HAPPEN TO ME...?
STRUGGLE

...CH!
OH...
WHOOSH
THE LIGHT...
IT WAS RED!
THAT WAS CLOSE...
THUMP
THUMP
PAINTED YAMADA
YAMADA INC

MAN, YOU'RE REALLY SLOW.
KAZUSA-KUN.
HOW COULD YOU LEAVE WITHOUT ME?
WH-WHY ARE YOU HERE?!
YOU LEFT WITHOUT ME, SO I RAN TO CATCH UP.
I WAS LATE, BUT I WAS STILL GONNA GO HOME WITH YOU.
WHAT?!
I TOLD THEM TO GO HOME.
I DIDN'T ASK HER TO DO THAT.
NO!
I THOUGHT YOU WERE GONNA HANG OUT WITH YOUR TEAMMATES.
THE MANAGER TOLD US SO...

OK?
CAPE
GO HAVE FUN.
I'M OK.
DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME.
OH BUT YOU SHOULD BE WITH THEM.
YOU HADN'T SEEN THEM FOR A WHILE, RIGHT?
.....!
OK?
TURN
WE PROMISED THIS MORNING
HEY, I THINK YOU'RE TRYING TO BE NICE, BUT...
LET'S GO HOME TOGETHER, MANAMI.
WE'RE GOING TO THE FLOWER SHOP AFTER SCHOOL, RIGHT?
SO... WHAT I MEAN IS...

...!
SURE.
JUST LIKE THAT...
I'M STUPID...
...AFTER ALL.
THE WEEDS THAT WERE GROWING INSIDE ME DISAPPEARED.
TEAR

SMILE
I'M ALRIGHT.
SNIFF
SNIFF
DON'T HAVE A HANDKERCHIEF
OH, NO!
SNIFF
YUP.
TRIP
OK, GET INTO MY BAG.
HEY HEY HEY
ARE YOU CRYING?
NO, NO, STOP CRYING.
I'M NOT CRYING.
AH... ALRIGHT
LET'S GO TO THE FLOWER SHOP.
OK?
I TOLD YOU I'M OK.
HE CALLED MY NAME.
HE CAME TO FIND ME.

I WANT TO SPEND MORE TIME WITH HIM.
I'M HAPPY WHEN HE'S WITH ME
IT FEELS WARM IN MY HEART
WHAT IS THIS FEELING CALLED?
"THAT MEANS..."
"YOU'RE IN LOVE."

#5
I Was Human
STORY/ HYAKURAI ART/KIKONOMI
TRANSLATION BY RICHIKO AOBA
ERIKO TAKEI
ADAPTATION BY JESSI NUSS (JVTA)
SKY JAPAN, INC.

DAYS AS A HAMSTER
THE DAY AFTER TOMORROW, KAZUSA-KUN'LL HAVE HIS SOUL TRANSPLANTED BACK TO HIS ORIGINAL BODY.
HE'S HAVING PRE-OP TESTING TODAY.

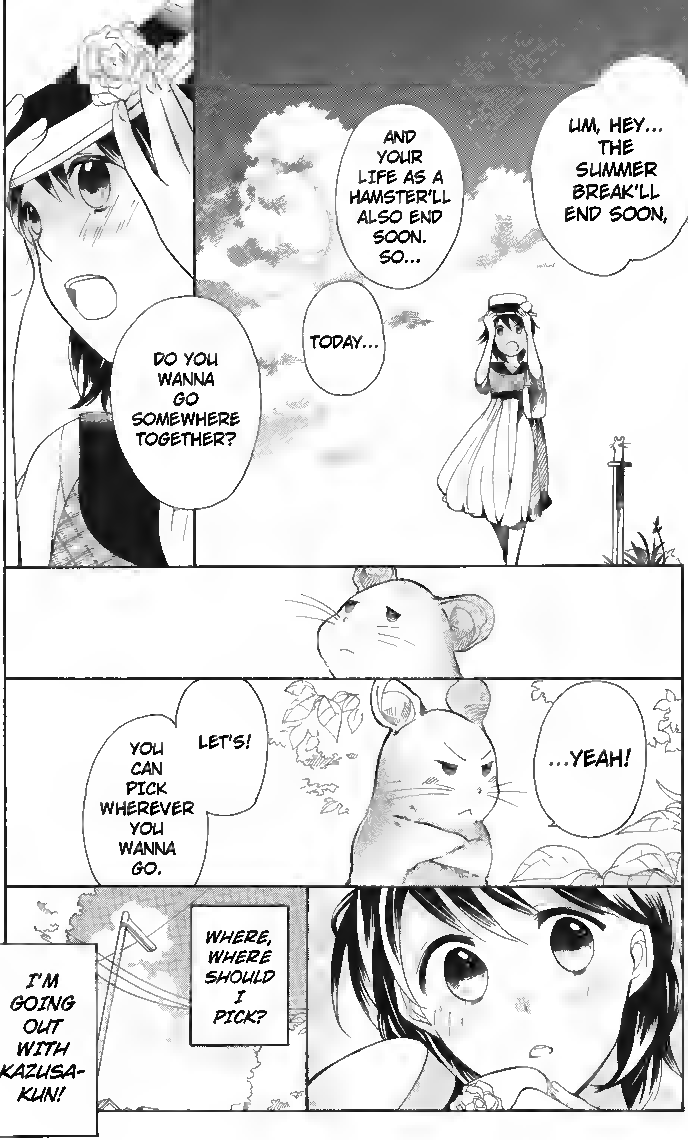
THIS IS A WORK OF FICTION. NAMES, CHARACTERS, PLACES AND INCIDENTS ARE THE PRODUCTS OF THE AUTHOR'S IMAGINATION OR ARE USED FICTITIOUSLY

EVERYTHING IS FINE
HE'LL RETURN TO BEING HUMAN IN NO TIME.
HAMSTER KAZUSA-KUN IS VERY HEALTHY
AND HIS ORIGINAL BODY HAS BEEN WELL-RECOVERED.
ほ。 RELIEF
THANK YOU VERY MUCH!
…?
SIGH

YAWN
BIG MOUTH!
OOPS!!
NOT GETTING ENOUGH SLEEP?
SWIFTLY
Y-YEAH, KIND OF.
I WAS MAKING A FELT WATER-MELON AND ALL.
WATER MELON?
スイカ
BEFORE I KNEW IT, IT WAS MORNING ALREADY.
...I DON'T WANNA SAY WHAT I WAS REALLY DOING.
LAST NIGHT
ROSE MEANS LOVE;
ASPAR-AGUS, FASCI-NATION;
AZALEA, PASSION.

SUNFLOWER MEANS
PEEKS
"I WATCH YOU IN ADORATION."
GASP
STARE
OH HEY, CONGRATS ON YOUR SMOOTH RECOVERY!
WHAT'S THE FIRST THING YOU WANNA DO AS A HUMAN?
HMM, PLAY SOCCER, I GUESS.
... NOTHING SPECIAL.

I GUESS TRANS-PLANTS ALWAYS HAVE SOME RISKS
MAYBE HE JUST CAN'T GET TOO EXCITED WITH THAT IN HIS MIND.
...HUH?
I THOUGHT HE'D BE MORE EXCITED.
TWO MORE DAYS TO GO FOR KAZUSA-KUN TO RETURN TO HIS HUMAN BODY.
HIS OPERATION IS THE DAY AFTER TOMORROW.
SO ESSENTIALLY, WE CAN ONLY BE TOGETHER TODAY AND TOMORROW.
SOON, I CAN'T BE WITH HIM...
...ER,


UM, HEY... THE SUMMER BREAK'LL END SOON,
AND YOUR LIFE AS A HAMSTER'LL ALSO END SOON. SO...
TODAY...
DO YOU WANNA GO SOMEWHERE TOGETHER?
...YEAH!
LET'S!
YOU CAN PICK WHEREVER YOU WANNA GO.
WHERE, WHERE SHOULD I PICK?
I'M GOING OUT WITH KAZUSA-KUN!

IT'S NOT LIKE GOING SHOPPING OR RUNNING ERRANDS.
THIS "GOING-OUT" IS A REAL DATE.
WE'LL SPEND TIME TOGE-THER!
SO GLAD I HAD THE COURAGE TO ASK HIM OUT!
WOW!
WHOA!
SO GREEN! SO LIVELY!
HEY, ARE YOU SURE THIS PUBLIC PARK IS WHERE YOU WANNA BE?
WE COME HERE A LOT ON SCHOOL OUTINGS.
BUT I'M GOOD, IF YOU'RE GOOD.
THIS IS WHERE I WANNA BE!
IF YOU SAY SO.

WHADDYA THINK?
どぅ？
ほー COOL
CLOTHING RENTAL
CRUNCH CRUNCH
カリカリ
GASP
WHAT HAVE YOU BEEN LOOKING FOR?
？
きょろ
LOOKING AROUND

ER...
? ?
ER... I'VE HEARD THERE'S A HEART-SHAPED POND IN THIS PARK.
SUPPOSE-DLY, YOUR WISH'LL COME TRUE IF YOU MAKE A WISH THERE.
WHAT?
YOU WANNA GO TO SUCH AN EMBARASSING PLACE?
IT'S CHILD-ISH, I KNOW... BUT...
I WANNA GO .. SORT OF.
AL-RIGHT.
LET'S GO.
TAP
YEAH!
POND OF WISHES

IT'S TOTALLY ...
DRIED UP!
IT'S BEEN SO HOT THIS SUMMER.
BUT.. SINCE YOU'RE ALREADY HERE, WHY DON'T YOU MAKE A WISH, ANYWAY?
あー OH WELL あー
がっくし BUMMED
UGH... I HAD HIGH EXPECT-ATIONS...
PLEASE LET KAZUSA-KUN RETURN TO HUMAN WITH NO PROBLEM.
AND... AND...
HUH?
OH!
STAY HERE FOR A SEC.

WHAT'S HE DOING?
EH?
JUST STAY THERE.
WHAT? WHAT'S THIS?
TAP
HEY, CLOSE YOUR EYES.
WHAT?
まだかな
NOT YET?
まだかな
NO?
チラ
PEEK
OPEN YOUR EYES.
HERE.
... FOUR-LEAF CLOVER!!

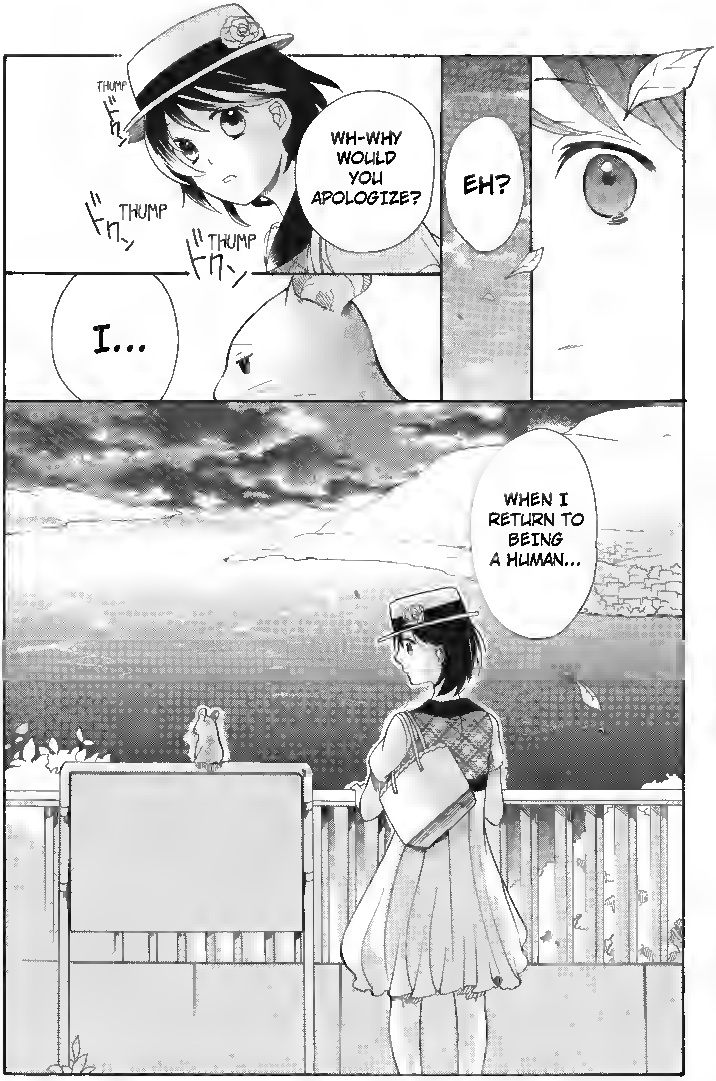
KAZU-SA-KUN
...DON'T LIKE IT?
TO MAKE UP YOUR DISAPPOINT-MENT OVER THAT HEART-SHAPED POND.
EACH LEAVE LOOKS LIKE A HEART.
AND...
スゴーイ!!
AWESOME!
I KNOW WHAT THEY LOOK LIKE!
YOU MISTOOK A CRAB APPLE FOR A CABBAGE...
HOW DID YOU RECOGNIZE A CLOVER?
SO IT'S ABOUT SOCCER
IT'S A SOCCER TEAM IN SCOTLAND.
IT'S THE SYMBOL OF CELTIC FC.
ふふん
SEE?
THANK YOU!
JAM
ズボッ
THIS IS AWESOME!
SURE I DO.

A FOUR-LEAF CLOVER ...
I'LL PRESS IT AS TODAY'S MEMORY.
I'LL ASK HIM ABOUT THE SOCCER TEAM WITH A CLOVER.
WE'LL TALK A LOT MORE.
WHEN KAZUSA-KUN IS HUMAN AGAIN...
KANA KANA
KANA
WHOOSH

*KANAKANAKANA = JAPANESE ONOMATOPOEIA FOR THE CALLS OF THE EVENING CICADAS

IT'S NICE HERE.
YEAH.
THIS IS MY FAVORITE PLACE.
I CAN FEEL THE SKY, THE OCEAN, AND THE LAND ALL GETTING ALONG TOGETHER.
IT'S A COMMON SCENE THOUGH
...IS IT WEIRD?
NO I LIKE IT HERE TOO.
OH.
REALLY?
NOW.
THUMP

NOW'S THE TIME TO ASK HIM.
AH...
WELL
MAYBE IT'S A BIT TOO EARLY
BUT
WHEN YOU RETURN TO YOUR BODY,
WOULD YOU COME HERE WITH ME AGAIN?
KANA
KANA
KANA
カナ
カナ
カナ
SORRY.

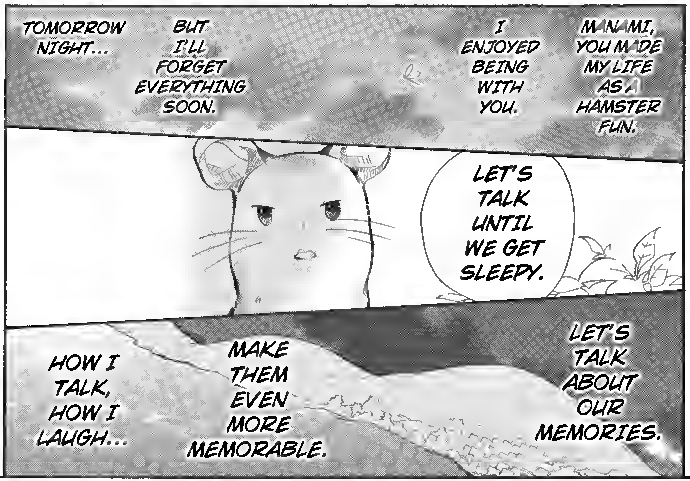

THUMP
THUMP
THUMP
I...
WH-WHY WOULD YOU APOLOGIZE?
EH?
WHEN I RETURN TO BEING A HUMAN...

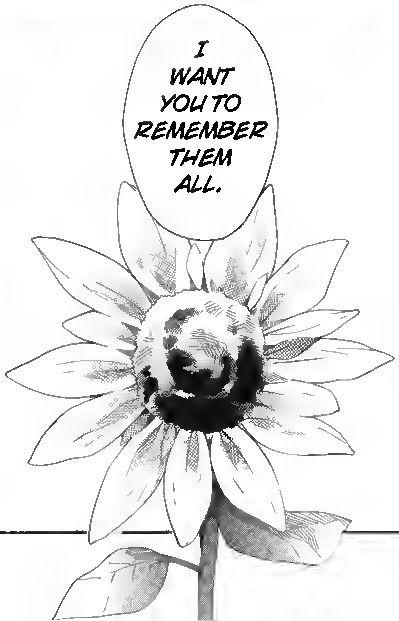
WHOOSH

...
HI
MOM
...
OH HI! YOU GOT HOME JUST ABOUT THE RIGHT TIME.
シュウウ SIZZLE
WE'RE HAVING TEMPURA FOR DINNER, YOUR FAVORITE, RIGHT? THEY JUST GOT DONE.
....OK.
HOW WAS KAZUSA-KUN TODAY? IS HE DOING FINE?
DID HE HAVE PRE-OP TESTING TODAY?
IS HE IN GOOD SHAPE?
シュウウ SIZZLE
パチ CRACK
...YEAH.
HE'S FINE.
THE DOCTOR SAID THE SURGERY WILL BE FINE TOO.

GOOD. SURGERY'S IN TWO DAYS. HE MUST BE EXCITED.
I HOPE HE GETS BACK TO HIS BODY SOON.
CHECK
OH?
SIZZLE
MANAMI?
MANAMI?
FWAMP
MOM...
MOM
WE HAD A LOT OF FUN.
WE DIDN'T JUST GO TO THE HOSPITAL. WE WENT OUT TOGETHER.
LISTEN, MOM.
WE EVEN TOOK A PICTURE TOGETHER.
BUT...

WELL...
WHEN I RETURN TO A HUMAN, I'LL FORGET ABOUT HAVING BEEN A HAMSTER.
IN A SOUL TRANSPLANT TO AN ANIMAL BODY LIKE MY CASE,
WHEN THEY PUT A SOUL BACK TO A HUMAN BODY,
THEY HAVE TO ERASE THE MEMORY WHEN THIS PERSON WAS IN THE ANIMAL BODY
I THOUGHT YOU KNEW... BUT...
LET'S GO EAT CURRY WHEN YOU GO BACK TO YOUR BODY.
WHEN YOU SAID THAT, I REALIZED YOU DIDN'T KNOW.
YOU KNOW ...


TOMORROW NIGHT...
BUT I'LL FORGET EVERYTHING SOON.
I ENJOYED BEING WITH YOU.
MANAMI, YOU MADE MY LIFE AS A HAMSTER FUN.
LET'S TALK UNTIL WE GET SLEEPY.
HOW I TALK, HOW I LAUGH...
MAKE THEM EVEN MORE MEMORABLE.
LET'S TALK ABOUT OUR MEMORIES.


I WANT YOU TO REMEMBER THEM ALL.

KAZUSA-KUN ... WHY WILL YOU FORGET EVERYTHING WHEN YOU RETURN TO YOUR BODY?
WILL IT BE LIKE THEY NEVER HAPPENED?
THIS ISN'T FAIR.
WE HAD A FIGHT.
WE ATE TOGETHER.
WE LAUGHED.

TO BE CONTINUED

STORY / HYAKURAI ART / KIKONOMI
TRANSLATION BY RICHIKO AOBA
ERIKO TAKEI
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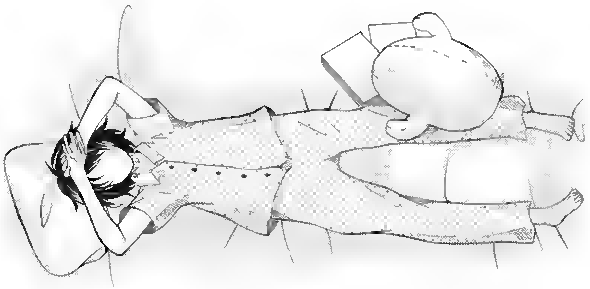
I'LL FORGET ABOUT HAVING BEEN A HAMSTER.
WHEN I RETURN TO BEING A HUMAN,



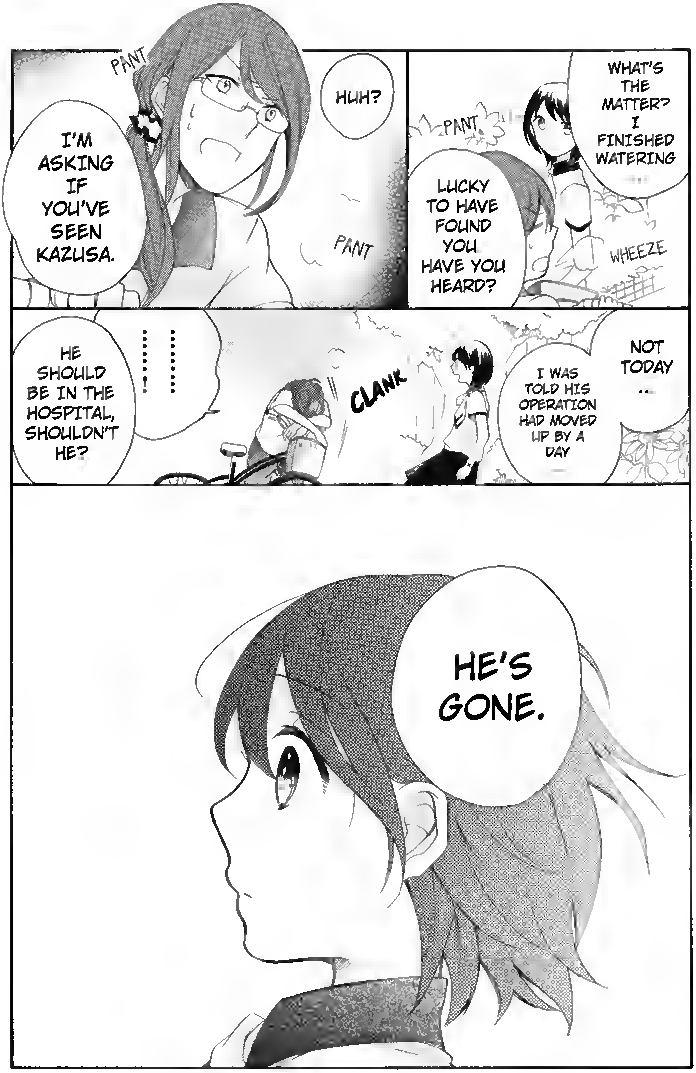
KA...
...ZUSA...
...KUN...

CLICK
MANAMI ...
JOLT
UGH!!
C'MON, MOM, KNOCK ON THE DOOR, PLEASE!
OH DEAR YOU'RE STILL IN PAJAMAS AND THIS ROOM'S A MESS
ARE YOU OK? YOU HAVEN'T EATEN ANYTHING SINCE YESTERDAY
OH, THAT REMINDS ME.
KAZUSA-KUN'S MOTHER CALLED EARLIER.
STARTLED
YOU DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT HIM TODAY.
.....
... WHY?
TODAY'S HIS LAST DAY AS A HAMSTER AND ...

I SEE...
HE'S RECOVERED SO FAST THAT THE OPERATION HAS BEEN MOVED UP TO TODAY
SHE SAID SHE'D COME AROUND TO THANK YOU
BUT ASKED ME TO SEND YOU HER REGARDS FOR NOW.
SOME-HOW...
WITHOUT SEEING ME ONE LAST TIME,
I FEEL LIKE I WANTED TO SEE HIM ONCE AGAIN
AGAIN BEFORE HE RETURNED TO BEING A HUMAN
MY HEART FEELS EMPTY ...
HE'LL RETURN TO A HUMAN
BUT
I'M NOT SURE HOW I'M GONNA FACE HIM.

SO, THIS MAY BE BETTER.
HE WON'T REMEMBER ANYTHING,
SIGH
LOOKING AT FLOWERS CAN USUALLY CHEER ME UP,
BUT SOMEHOW, THEY DON'T RESONATE WITH MY HEART TODAY.
SO SEEING EACH OTHER MAKES NO DIFFERENCE.

KAZUSA-KUN...
ARE YOU ON AN OPERATING TABLE RIGHT NOW?
OR, ARE YOU ALREADY BACK TO BEING HUMAN?
NO, STOP THINKING!
I HAVE TO FORGET ABOUT HIM!
BECAUSE HE'LL FORGET ABOUT ME...
MANAMI!
KATSURA-SENSEI?

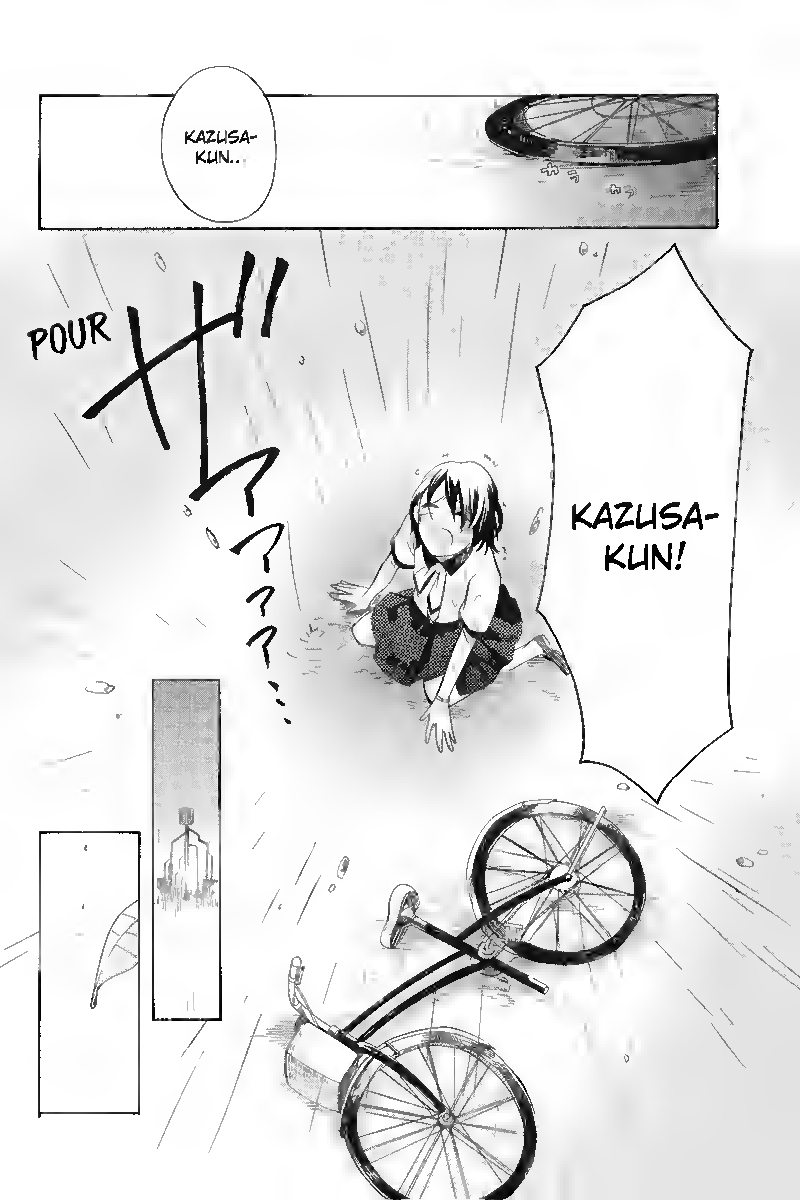

PANT
I'M ASKING IF YOU'VE SEEN KAZUSA.
HUH?
PANT
PANT
LUCKY TO HAVE FOUND YOU HAVE YOU HEARD?
WHAT'S THE MATTER? I FINISHED WATERING
WHEEZE
HE SHOULD BE IN THE HOSPITAL, SHOULDN'T HE?
.....!
CLANK
I WAS TOLD HIS OPERATION HAD MOVED UP BY A DAY
NOT TODAY ...
HE'S GONE.

HIS MOTHER TOLD ME THAT HE RAN AWAY BEFORE THE OPERATION.
HE WASN'T AROUND THE SCHOOL WHEN I LOOKED.
SO, I GUESS HE DIDN'T GO TO YOUR PLACE, EITHER.
WHERE DID HE GO?!
.....
LET ME BORROW YOUR BICYCLE!
CLANK
MANAMI!!
Stagger
WAIT, MANAMI!

I HAVE NO CLUE.
WHERE IN THIS CITY ARE YOU GOING TO LOOK ...
...FOR A LITTLE HAMSTER?!
WHAT SHOULD I DO?
WHERE ARE YOU?
WERE YOU RUN OVER BY A CAR?
WERE YOU BE ATTACKED BY A CAT?
ARE YOU PASSED OUT SOME-WHERE?!

PARTING WITHOUT SEEING EACH OTHER FOR THE LAST TIME ...
THAT I COULD LIVE WITH, I THOUGHT.
BUT NOW, EVEN IF YOU FORGET ABOUT ME,
I HAVE TO SEE YOU.
TO TELL YOU ...
"I LOVE YOU."

SLIP
スリップ
ズボァアア
TUMBLE
…!


KAZUSA-KUN..
POUR
KAZUSA-KUN!

CLATTERING
KAZUSA-KUN...

MANAMI.
SAKURA
THAT WAS SOME HEAVY RAIN.
I'M LIKE A DROWNED RAT.
YOU.
TAP TAP
BENT
ぺたん
FLOP

BEFORE I RETURNED TO MY HUMAN BODY,
I REALLY WANTED TO SEE YOU, MANAMI.
DUMMY!
I GOT OUT OF THE HOSPITAL.
YOU ...
I'M SORRY I MADE YOU WORRY.
...
SAKURA
... YOU DUMMY ...

OH NO.
YOU'RE SNEEZ-ING.
ARE YOU OK?
ACHOO
YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE BEEN STANDING IN THE RAIN
I'M OK.
BUT IF I CATCH A COLD, MY OPERATION WILL BE POSTPONED
I'LL STILL BE A HAMSTER.

.....
JUST LIKE NOW
PRICK
AND WE CAN STAY TOGETHER.
I WISH WE COULD ALWAYS BE TOGETHER.
I DON'T CARE IF HE'S A HUMAN OR A HAMSTER.
WE'D LAUGH TOGETHER, MAYBE EVEN FIGHT.
AND WE'D LAUGH AGAIN.
ONLY IF WE COULD LIVE LIKE THAT...

TURN
……

HUH?
NOW, WALK ON YOUR OWN FEET.
?
SLIP
HOW COME?
STOP BEHAVING LIKE A HAMSTER.
YOU HAVE TO RETURN TO YOUR BODY.
YOU KNOW A HAMSTER CAN'T PLAY SOCCER.
YEAH..
RIGHT
UGH
A HAMSTER CAN ONLY LIVE FOR THREE YEARS
UGH

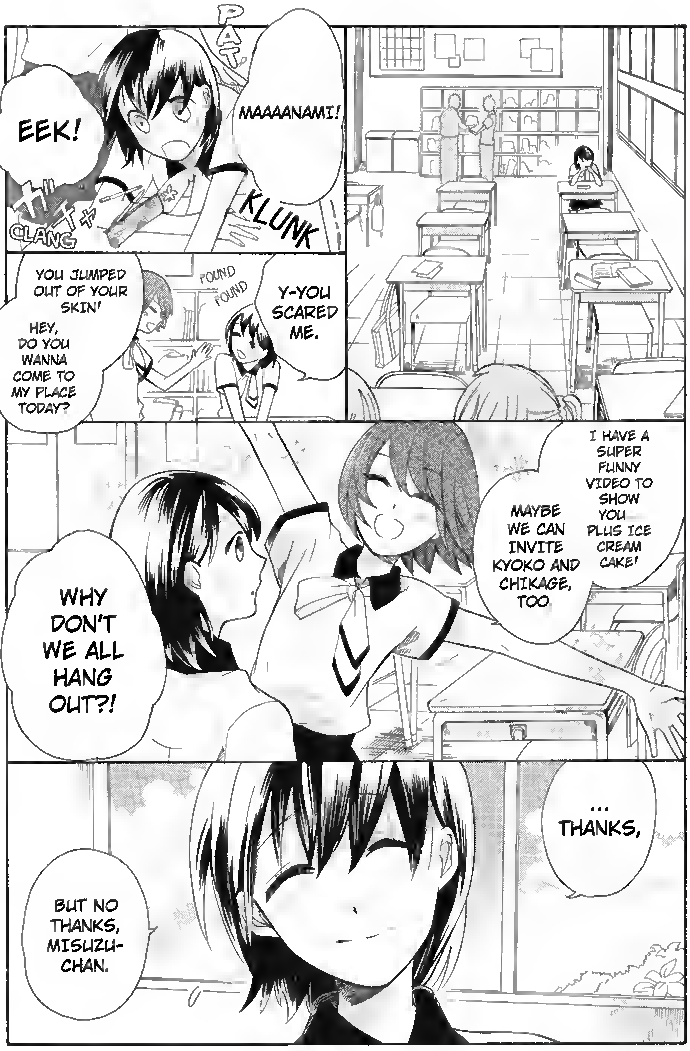
IT'S LIKE THE SUN AT NIGHT.
THE MOON'S SO BRIGHT.
♪ REALLY NEVER WANTED US TO PART.
KAZUSA-KUN...

STORY / HYAKURAI ART / KIKONOMI
TRANSLATION BY RICHIKO AOBA
ERIKO TAKEI
ADAPTATION BY JESSI NUSS (JVTA)
SKY JAPAN, INC.

THIS IS A WORK OF FICTION. NAMES, CHARACTERS, PLACES AND INCIDENTS ARE THE PRODUCTS OF THE AUTHOR'S IMAGINATION OR ARE USED FICTITIOUSLY

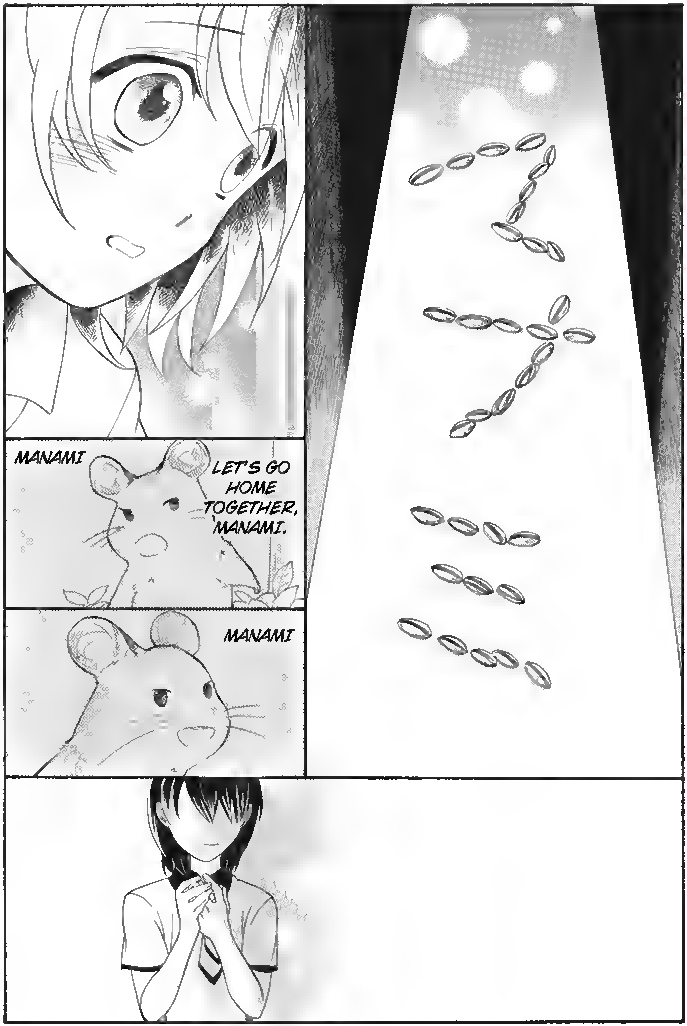
SEPTEMBER 1
SUMMER BREAK'S OVER AND WE'RE BACK IN SCHOOL.
ORDINARY DAYS ARE BACK.
BUT ...
KAZUSA-KUN
AT THIS MOMENT

HOW'S YOUR OPERATION GOING?
HOW LONG DOES IT TAKE?
AT WHICH EXACT MOMENT
IS IT WHEN YOU WAKE UP?
IS IT WHEN YOUR SOUL IS FIXED TO YOUR BODY?
WILL YOU FORGET ABOUT ME?


EEK!
CLANG
MAAAANAMI!
PAT
KLUNK
Y-YOU SCARED ME.
POUND POUND
YOU JUMPED OUT OF YOUR SKIN!
HEY, DO YOU WANNA COME TO MY PLACE TODAY?
I HAVE A SUPER FUNNY VIDEO TO SHOW YOU PLUS ICE CREAM CAKE!
MAYBE WE CAN INVITE KYOKO AND CHIKAGE, TOO.
WHY DON'T WE ALL HANG OUT?!
... THANKS,
BUT NO THANKS, MISUZU-CHAN.

I'M REALLY GRATE-FUL
A CLOSE FRIEND IS TRYING TO CHEER ME UP.
SURE
NO PROBLEM
NEXT TIME
WITH-OUT ASKING IF I'M OK,
WITH-OUT SHOW-ING PITY.
TOMORROW, I'LL...
I'LL RETURN TO THE USUAL ME, I PROMISE.

DESPITE HIM BEING SO TINY.
KAZUSA-KUN LEFT SIGNS THAT HE'D BEEN HERE,
EVERY-WHERE IN THIS ROOM,
A NARROW GAP LIKE THIS...
HOP
WAS HIS FAVORITE PLACE.


MANAMI
LET'S GO HOME TOGETHER, MANAMI.
MANAMI

KAZUSA-KUN...
A MONTH LATER
SUWA HIGH SCHOOL CULTURAL FESTIVAL

HOUTTUYNIA CORDATA IS AN HERB NATIVE TO JAPAN AND SOME ASIAN COUNTRIES. ITS TEA HAS DETOXIFICATION PROPERTIES
HELLO
PLEASE TRY OUR SUNFLOWER SEEDS!
ALSO TRY OUR DANDELION COFFEE AND HOUTTUYNIA TEA.
GARDENING CLUB
FREE GIFT!
SUNFLOWER SEEDS
HMM, SUNFLOWER ...
SO, HOW WAS IT AFTERWARDS?
HELLO!
HUH?
WITH KAZUSA.
GARDENING CLUB SUNFLOWER SEE
.....
I GUESS YOU HAVEN'T SEEN HIM.
HE'S THERE ON THE FIELD, YOU KNOW.
I'M AFRAID ...

I KNOW HE WOULDN'T REMEMBER ME.
I'VE MANAGED TO QUIET DOWN MY EMOTIONS.
"DON'T YOU REMEMBER ME?"
"CALL MY NAME AGAIN."
I MIGHT GET MY HOPES UP.
…
IF I SAW HIS FACE,
WELL
MIRACLES MAY NOT HAPPEN,
……
?

EVEN IF YOU PRAY UNTIL YOUR HEART BURSTS,
YOUR PRAYER MAY NOT BE ANSWERED
YOU MAY GET A RESULT YOU DON'T LIKE.
EVEN IF YOU WORK AT IT ALL NIGHT.
THAT'S DEFINITELY TRUE...
OH...
ISN'T A GOOD EXCUSE FOR NOT TRYING
EVEN SO, AN UNWANTED OUTCOME
WHY NOT, MANAMI?
AND HOPE FOR THE BEST.
DO WHATEVER YOU WANNA DO

IF YOU KNEW A FLOWER WOULDN'T TURN OUT BEAUTIFUL,
WOULD YOU STOP WATERING IT?
I JUST ...
SHAKE SHAKE
LIKE TO TAKE CARE OF FLOWERS
I'D NEVER
MAID CAFÉ
KATSURA-SENSEI...
I...
OH, SPEAK OF THE DEVIL

KAZUSA-KUN..
I'M GONNA GIVE HIM SUNFLOWER SEEDS.
.....
SQUEEZE
HE'S NOT SUPPOSED TO REMEMBER ME.
BUT ...
EVEN SO,
FEELINGS DON'T DISAPPEAR EASILY

KA...

@ 2 PM
BLINK

HEY, KAZUSA.
MIRACLES DON'T HAPPEN EASILY...
I SHOULD'VE KNOWN.
OF COURSE
HUH?
OH!
DIDN'T YOU DROP SOME-THING?
THANKS.

I DON'T KNOW WHY,
BUT I LIKE IT.
NOT SURE.
I HAD THIS BEFORE I KNEW IT.
THAT'S
HAND-MADE? ISN'T IT DIRTY?
...THE FELT BALL I GAVE HIM.
WHAT?
EXCUSE ME.
TAP TAP TAP

H-
HERE.
THESE ARE SUNFLOWER SEEDS.
WE GREW FLOWERS IN THE GARDENING CLUB.
THANKS.
I LOVE THESE.
YOU EAT THOSE?
GIGGLE
THEY'RE PRETTY TASTY.
SERIOUSLY?!

ART CLUB
UNLUCKY CLUB
CULTURAL FESTIVAL
HE'S GONE.
I KNOW.
WHAT ARE YOU GONNA DO...
...ABOUT KAZUSA-KUN?
UMM... I'LL...
...GIVE HIM WATER.
HUH? HE'S A HUMAN, NOT A PLANT.
HA HA HA
WHY ARE YOU LAUGHING, MANAMI?
HEY, WHAT ABOUT OUR CLUB SHOP...?

SUMMER GAVE ME THE MOST WONDERFUL SEVEN DAYS.
THEY'VE PASSED BY LIKE A FLASH.
THE SCENERY HASN'T CHANGED AND NEITHER HAVE I.
BUT ...
I FEEL A LITTLE DIFFERENT.

I WONDER IF I'LL EVER SPEAK TO KAZUSA-KUN AGAIN.
MAYBE I'LL JUST BE WATCHING HIM ON THE FIELD
I'LL PROBABLY GO ON WITH MY NORMAL LIFE
SURELY
WITH-OUT A DOUBT
A HAPPY END-ING?
OR A BAD END-ING?
I DON'T KNOW WHAT'LL BLOSSOM,
MIRACLE S DON'T HAPPEN OFTEN.

THE END

WAIT FOR THE NEXT SPECIAL EPISODE, "I WAS A HAMSTER"!

I WAS A HAMSTER

STORY / HYAKURAI
ART / KIKONOMI
"TRANSLATION BY RICHIKO AOBA
ERIKO TAKEI
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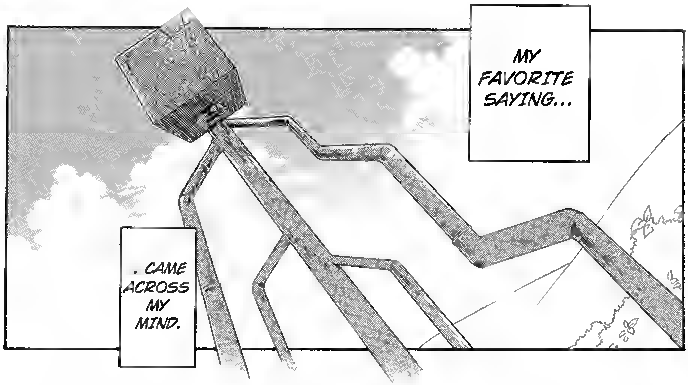
"IF TODAY'S GAME
IS ON THE PITCH AFTER RAIN,
MY LEFT FOOT SHALL
DRAW A RAINBOW."

A. RECOBA
(PROFESSIONAL SOCCER PLAYER)



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BECAUSE, ON THE GLASS WINDOW OF THE CAPSULE,
I SAW THE COLORS OF THE RAINBOW.
I WAS HERE IN THIS SOUL FOUNDRY HOSPITAL FOR A WEEK.
.TIME FOR ME TO RETURN TO BEING A HUMAN
IT'S AL-REA-DY ..

IS SHE CRYING?
KAZUSA-KUN YOU'RE AWFUL!
IS SHE UPSET?
WHAT IS SHE DOING RIGHT NOW?

...HUH?

I SAW SO MANY OF HER EXPRESSIONS, SO WHY
SHE IS SO SLOW-WITTED AND WEEPY.
WHY IS ALL I CAN RECALL...

...HER SMILE?
EVER SINCE I SAW HER FOR THE FIRST TIME IN SPRING,
WHILE LOOKING AT LITTLE GREEN BUDS AND FLOWERS,
HER SMILE HAS BEEN ENGRAVED IN MY HEART.
WELL, WHAT'S NEXT?
SHE WAS SMILING WITH THEM
SUWA

DAY AF-TER DAY,
EVEN ON A RAINY DAY,
SUWA
EVEN ON A SCORCHING HOT DAY, SHE WAS SMILING.
PREET
IN-CRE-DIB-LE
SHE WAS ALWAYS HANGING IN THERE.

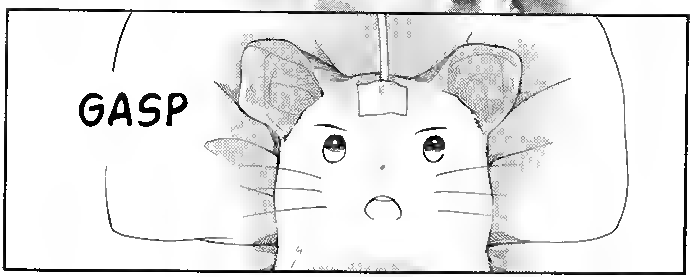
SO HOT, ISN'T IT?
YOU'VE GOTTEN SO BIG!
OF COURSE I WANNA TAKE A BREAK.
OF COURSE, I'M IN PAIN.
PANT PANT
PANT
PREET!
OKAY, ANOTHER SPRINT, GUYS.
WHEEZE WHEEZE
KAZUSA, YOU LOOK LIKE YOU'RE IN PAIN. WANNA TAKE A BREAK?
TAKE A BREAK.
NO WAY.
I'LL DO ANOTHER SPRINT!
YEAH ALRIGHT!
ARE YOU SURE?

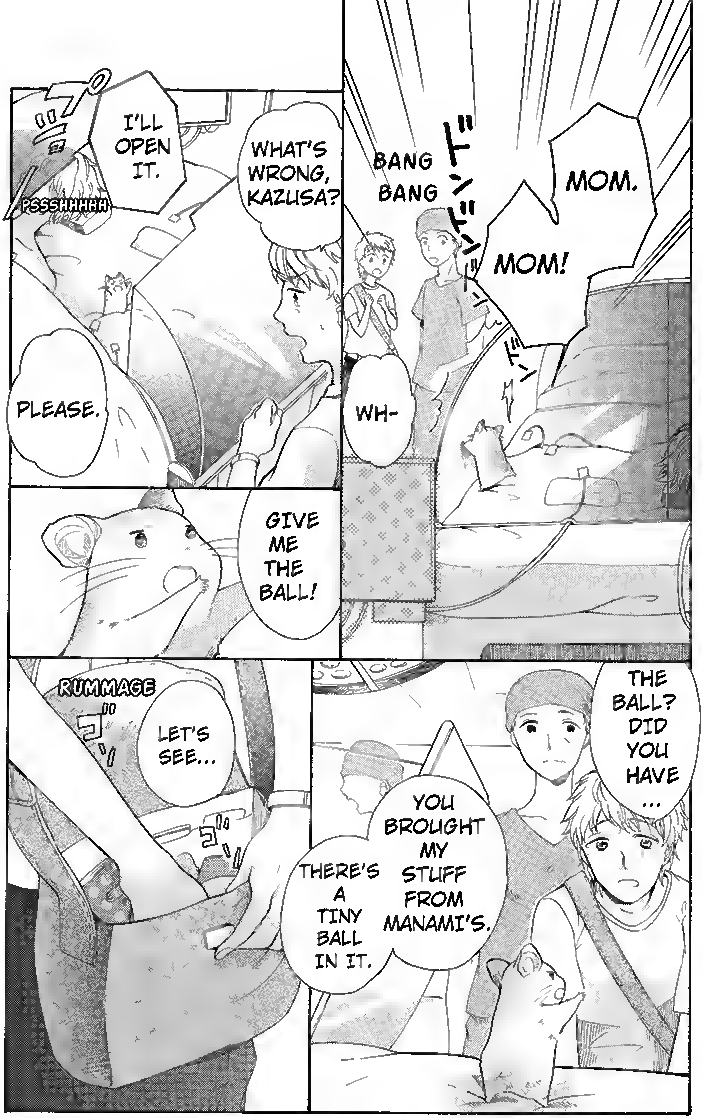
WAS I IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL WHEN I SAW THAT KICK?
WHEN WAS THIS VIDEO SHOT?
THIS STADIUM LOOKS OLD.
FREE KICK BY RECOBA!
HIS FOOT HAS DRAWN...
...A BIG RAINBOW!
WOOOOOW!

SHE HAS TAKEN CARE OF FLOWERS TO HAVE THEM BLOSSOM.
SOME DAY, I WANT TO...
...DRAW A RAINBOW WITH MY LEFT FOOT TOO.
IF I RETURN TO BEING A HUMAN, I CAN PLAY SOCCER.
BUT...
...WHY, YOU DAMN SOUL FOUNDRY?
IN THIS DAY AND AGE WHEN A HIGH-TECH PROCEDURE LIKE A SOUL TRANSPLANT IS NO BIG DEAL,
WHY CAN'T YOU LET ME KEEP THE MEMORIES OF WHEN I WAS A HAMSTER?
IT'S RIDICULOUS.

REMEMBER A LITTLE ABOUT US?
MAYBE IT'S TOO LATE...
BUT... CAN'T I JUST...
WOULD IT WORK?
EVEN IF SHE SHOWED IT TO ME AFTER I'VE LOST MY MEMORY,
I WOULDN'T FEEL ANYTHING.
SHOULD I ASK HER TO SHOW ME OUR PICTURE?

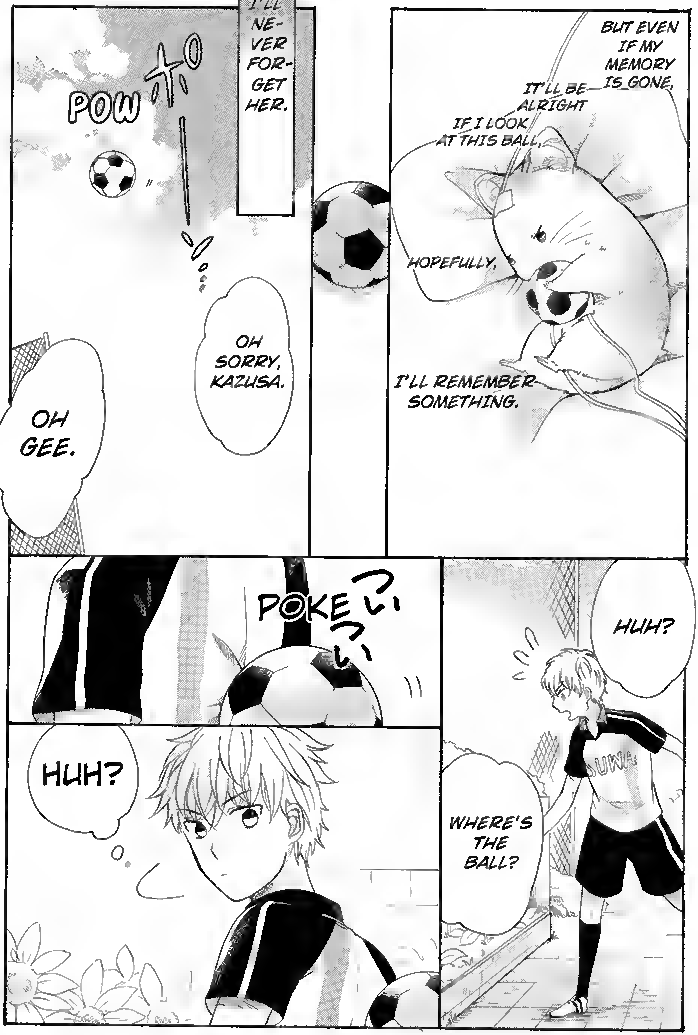
THERE MUST BE SOMETHING I CAN DO NOW...




BANG BANG
MOM.
MOM!
WH-
I'LL OPEN IT.
WHAT'S WRONG, KAZUSA?
PSSSHHHH
PLEASE.
GIVE ME THE BALL!
RUMMAGE
LET'S SEE...
THERE'S A TINY BALL IN IT.
YOU BROUGHT MY STUFF FROM MANAMI'S.
THE BALL? DID YOU HAVE ...

...THIS ONE?
YEAH.
ON THAT DAY...
SHE GAVE ME THIS FELT BALL.

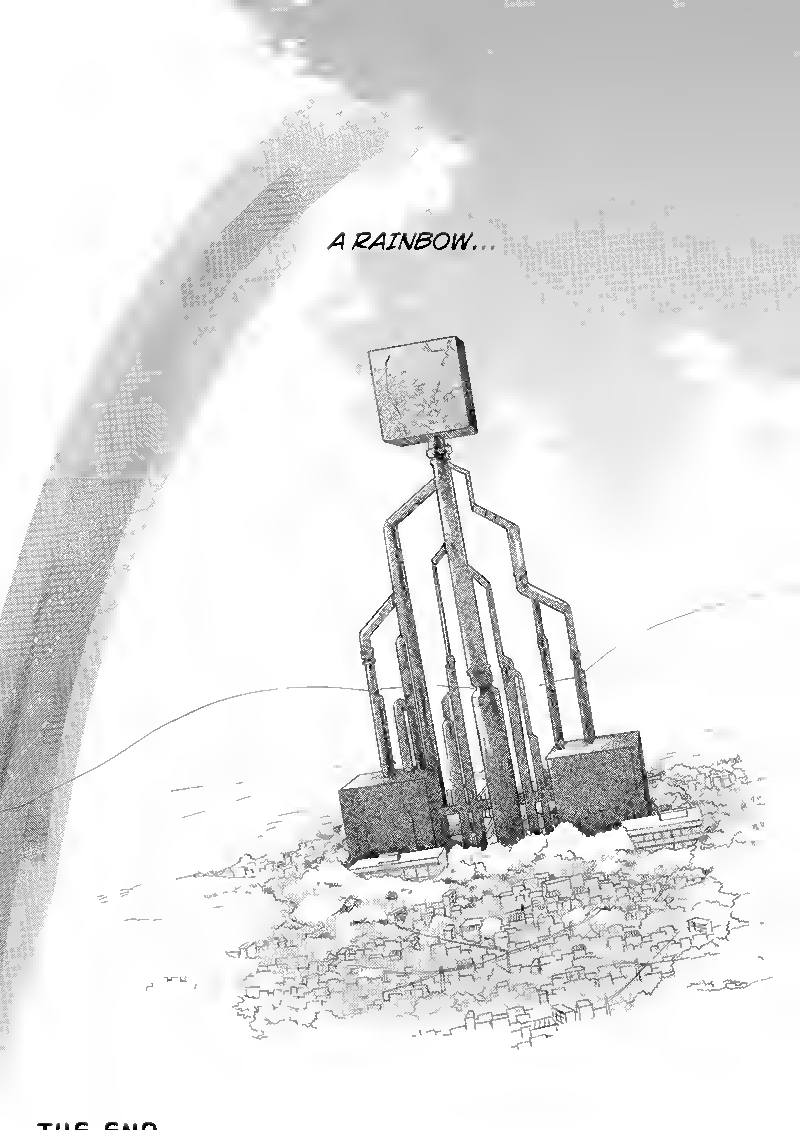
I PRO-MISE.
...I'LL GIVE YOU THE BALL.
WHEN MY SOUL TRANSPLANT IS DONE,
LET ME AS A HUMAN HAVE THIS BALL.
PROMISE ME
1, 2...
WE'LL PUT HIM UNDER AN ANES-THETIC
HUG
WHEN WILL I FOR-GET HER?
WHEN AM I GONNA GET SLEE-PY?


I'LL NE-VER FOR-GET HER.
POW
OH SORRY, KAZUSA.
OH GEE.
BUT EVEN IF MY MEMORY IS GONE,
IT'LL BE ALRIGHT
IF I LOOK AT THIS BALL,
HOPEFULLY,
I'LL REMEMBER SOMETHING.
POKE
HUH?
HUH?
WHERE'S THE BALL?

SHE'S STRANGE.
A PLANT-MANIAC.
A LITTLE SLOW.
ISN'T SHE GONNA LOOK AT ME IN THE EYE?
BUT...

WHEN I WAS A HUMAN,
AND EVEN WHEN I WAS A HAM-STER,
SLEEPY
...
SLEEPY... I'M GETTING...
SOMETHING VERY IMPORTANT.
SHE ALWAYS GAVE ME...
I WON'T...
I'LL NEVER... FORGET...

WHEN I RETURN TO MY BODY...
MANAMI.
AND IF MY MEMORY...
MY MEMORY...
STILL...
WITH MY LEFT FOOT...
I'LL DRAW...
AND SHOW HER...


A RAINBOW...
THE END